



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

\$1.37M SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

Suicide prevention has been targeted as a priority area of mental health funding in the 2004-05 ACT Budget.

Health Minister Simon Corbell said funding of \$1.373 million over four years had been allocated to suicide prevention.

“The key initiative out of this funding is a suicide prevention strategy that will be developed and implemented,” said Mr Corbell. “This strategy will ensure that programs across the sector are integrated.”

Mr Corbell said a full-time suicide prevention project officer would be employed to develop the strategy. “The officer will be responsible for a strategy to drive initiatives and provide a more co-ordinated approach to prevent suicide in the ACT.”

Some of the Budget funding will be divided between four non-government organisations that provide suicide prevention training, education and support for the Canberra community. The Ozhelp Foundation will receive \$240,000.

Mr Corbell said suicide could not be prevented in all cases, but the Government was ensuring there was adequate funds for programs and resources so that people at risk could be given as much support and care as possible.

“People will receive a better level of care because of this funding. This approach will strengthen the current services aimed at reducing the risk of suicide and mental health relapse.

“Many of the programs the Government funds are already a great success. For example, more than 90 per cent of the Cottage Day program clients have returned to school or work as a result of attending the care program.

“We are building on this so that people have a higher quality of health care.”

Statement Ends.