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MEDIA RELEASE

Report tabling – prevention of youth suicide in New South Wales

The Committee on Children and Young People has tabled its report into the prevention of youth suicide in New South Wales.

"The inquiry was conducted over the course of a year and the Committee received valuable evidence from a range of stakeholders including people with lived experience of suicide, government agencies, advocacy groups and research organisations to find out where the gaps in the system are and how to improve it," Ms Melanie Gibbons MP, Chair of the Committee, commented.

The report made a number of recommendations that cover a range of areas including improving access to services for children and young people, enhancing the way data on youth suicide and self-harm is collected, and expanding gatekeeper training across New South Wales.

"Young people find it difficult to access services for a range of reasons, and so the Committee has looked at expanding the way services can be delivered to children and young people, such as by utilising technology. Especially to children and young people living in regional, rural and remote areas."

The collection of accurate and timely data is very important to capture correct information for future prevention strategies. To support this the Committee has recommended the creation of a suicide register in New South Wales. "Having a centralised database would mean less inconsistencies in the data and more accurate and timely reporting." Ms Gibbons said

The Committee also looked at the role communities can play in suicide prevention, particularly through training gatekeepers. "Training those with frequent face-to-face contact with children and young people to recognise early warning signs is an important part in enabling communities to respond appropriately and sensitively to children and young people in distress."

In its report the Committee acknowledged the work being done currently through the number of LifeSpan trials operating across Australia and the recent commitments from both the State and Commonwealth Governments in the area of suicide prevention.

"While there is great work being done to prevent youth suicide, there is more to be done. The recommendations in the report build on the work currently underway and also address some of the gaps identified with the aim of improving the lives of children and young people at risk of suicide."

Further information about the inquiry including the report, submissions and transcripts are available on the [Committee's website](#).

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