Dear Committee for Social Issues

HUMANS:CONNECTING's Supplementary Submission lodged on 17 February 2025 referred to the creation of [Lonely-EU](), a project that is bringing together science and policy makers on providing evidence-based policy solutions throughout the European Union. Our submission offered Lonely-EU as a model for which the Committee may want to consider developing in New South Wales.

It's with this in mind that I share this week's episode of the **HUMANS:**CONNECTING podcast with you. I interviewed Judith Merkies (former Member of the European Parliament) and Dr Hans Rocha IJzerman, who jointly founded Lonely-EU.

Of note, we speak about:

- the important work being done to move beyond discussions about the impacts of loneliness using well-established economic measures towards targetted social measures based on robust and sound social data relating to loneliness, social isolation and social (dis)connection, and
- Lonely-EU's willingness to work and collaborate with partners internationally.

The members of the committee may be interested in the discussion.

Website: https://www.humansconnecting.org/podcast/episode/dd5e91d0/29-lonely-eu-is-here-to-connect-europe-and-the-world-with-judith-merkies-and-dr-hans-rocha-ijzerman

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/episode/70Gx7HD4SwQ3ssCEqnJC1n?si=ced724e6cfc542b8

YouTube: https://youtu.be/ulnLOp2YJD0

I provide this information and links for the Committee's information.

With best wishes
Phil

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