

MALE SUICIDE

1. Suicide kills six men a day in Australia. **Three out of four suicides are male.**¹
2. **Suicide is the leading killer of men and boys under 45.** It claims more lives than road traffic accidents.¹
3. **Male suicide increased by 41%** in the decade from 2006 to 2015, rising from 1,624 deaths a year to 2,292 suicides.¹
4. Indigenous males are nearly **three times more likely to die by suicide** than Indigenous females and twice as likely to take their own lives as non-indigenous males.¹
5. Males who identify as gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex are at higher risk of suicide and have been reported to be **four times more likely to have attempted suicide.**²
6. Each suicide is estimated to cost the economy \$6 million. **Male suicide costs the economy an estimated \$13.75 billion a year.**³
7. Nearly **three quarters (72.7%) of men who take their own lives**, do so at the first attempt, while almost a half (44.4%) of women who die by suicide have made a previous attempt.⁴
8. Around **two thirds** of people are thought to die at the first known attempt. Over **80%** at those who have no known history of attempting suicide are male.⁴
9. Research suggests that the majority of male suicides are not primarily linked to a mental health diagnosis. A recent study of male farmer suicide found that **78%** of the suicides were predominantly associated with either relationship issues/family breakdown or a work/financial crisis.⁵
10. Closing the gender suicide gap and reducing the number of male suicides to the same level as female suicide, would **save the lives of more than 1,500 Australian men a year** and save the economy an estimated **\$9.3 billion** a year.^{1, 3}

References:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3303.0, Causes of Death, Australia, (2015) 2. Skerret DM. Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviours in LGBTI Populations and Access to Care in Australia: A Literature Review, prepared for Queensland AIDS Council (2014) 3. Mendoza J, Rosenberg S. Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Australia: Breaking the Silence, prepared by ConNectica Consulting for Lifeline Australia and Suicide Prevention Australia. (2010) 4. Kolves K, Potts B, Diego De Leo. Ten years of suicide mortality in Australia: Socio-economic and psychiatric factors in Queensland, Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 36 (2015) 5. Kunde, L., Kölves, K., Kelly, B., Reddy, P., De Leo, D. (2017) *Pathways to Suicide in Australian Farmers: A Life Chart Analysis*. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.