



Media Release September 10 2008

World Suicide Prevention Day: Time to Get Talking

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) have released a brief comment paper to coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day.

Published in the respected international journal Health Policy, the paper argues that it is vital to discuss barriers to help-seeking behaviour, the effects of comprehensive suicide prevention efforts, and the need to build upon such initiatives to further reduce the occurrence of suicide.

“Suicide remains a significant public health concern in Australia and internationally. Although public awareness and support strategies have come a long way in the past decade, suicide is still a difficult issue to tackle,” said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

The commentary follows on from work by Dr McPhedran and her colleague Dr Jeanine Baker, whose peer-reviewed study on suicide trends for Australian men and women was also published in Health Policy earlier this year.*

Dr McPhedran pointed out “The good news is that Australian male suicides have been falling steadily since the late 1990s, when national suicide prevention strategies were introduced. The bad news is that there are still many high-risk groups in the community, who have multiple unmet needs and remain susceptible to self-harm.”

*Executive summary available from: http://www.ic-wish.org/recent_suicide_trends.htm

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE