

Naomi Bleeser
Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



20 April 2010

Dear Naomi

RE: Senate Inquiry into Suicide in Australia



I would like to add some clarifying comments to my evidence given in Perth on March 30th 2010.

Page CA53, final paragraph. I was asked about the tender for the Information and Support Pack for people bereaved by suicide. Senator Moore asked "...did you actually put an application in for that tender?" To clarify, we originally applied for funding through the NSPS around 2001 to research and develop a support pack. We came up with the idea to write a support pack based on the results of the needs assessment we conducted and submitted this idea for funding. There was never a specific tender asking for interested parties to submit a proposal to develop a support pack.

On page CA54, final paragraph Senator Moore asked "In Queensland we had particularly negative reports about just being given a handful of leaflets at the time. People felt that was probably not useful at all and maybe even had a negative impact." I do not feel that I addressed this point at the time and would like to say that in our experience, that is in 10 years of having the support pack in WA and having over 5000 copies distributed through the Coroner's Office and ARBOR, we have never had a complaint from any bereaved person that has received it through this standardised method. In fact we have never received any complaint at all about the support pack or how it is received. We are more likely to get a thank you for proactively providing information of a supportive nature as most people have trouble accessing anything themselves at the time of their loss. Bereaved people are not hurt by the provision of information; they are hurt by a lack of support, by not knowing where to go for help and by being stigmatised.

Kind regards

Sharon Hillman
Manager