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Senator Rachel Siewert
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07 DEC 2009

Dear Senator Siewert

Thank you for your letter dated 15 September 2009, in which you invite the Hon Paul Henderson MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory to provide a written submission on behalf of the Northern Territory Government (NTG) to the Senate Inquiry into Suicide in Australia. This correspondence was forwarded to me as the matter falls within my portfolio of responsibilities.

The NTG welcomes the invitation to respond to this inquiry. Suicide is a tragedy that has impacted on many individuals, families and communities across the Northern Territory (NT) and the NTG is committed to working collaboratively at all levels of Government and across the community to address this tragedy.

In March 2009 the NTG launched the NT Suicide Action Plan 2009-2011 which reflects a whole-of-government response to guide direction in suicide prevention over the next three years. It includes a range of assessable actions and initiatives to reduce self harming behaviour and enhance the resilience and capacity of the NT community.

Further information on these and other initiatives are provided within the attached submission. If you have any further inquiries, please contact either Ms Bronwyn Hendry, Chair, Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Committee at bronwyn.hendry@nt.gov.au or (08) 89992916 or Ms Sarah O'Regan Suicide Prevention Coordinator at sarah.oregan@nt.gov.au or (08) 89992789.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of this important inquiry.

Yours sincerely


MALARNDIRRI MCCARTHY