

# *Dr Adrienne Freeman*

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Senate Enquiry into Suicide in Australia.

To the Chair and Committee of the Senate Enquiry into Suicide in Australia

For nearly four decades of medical practice I have not infrequently dealt with emergency situations where suicide has been a most urgent clear and present danger. Every patient's extreme circumstances differ in detail but there are some common threads leading to this emergency situation. Quite frequently the experience of unplanned and unwanted pregnancy leads to suicidal ideation and action and I am humbly confident to have averted tragedy in many instances by offering the service of pregnancy termination.

This clinical care has proven very damaging personally and professionally since, despite having saved 2 lives, (mother and 4 year old child) one has become the target of the anti-choice zealots who seek to further their agenda by incapacitating a healthcare provider physically and professionally and thus have practice suppressed.

It is sobering to realise that suicide is now the leading cause of maternal mortality. I hope the Senate will draw attention to the need for provision of accessible and confidential care in circumstances of need for abortion provision.

Happy to have been of assistance

Yours sincerely,



Adrienne Freeman

c.c. Dr D. Pakchung, Avant