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For immediate release



Media Release

Call for Queensland to Support Suicide Prevention for LGBTI people

Healthy Communities calls on the Queensland government and the LNP to commit to supporting suicide prevention programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Queensland, in line with the Victorian Government.

The Liberal Government in Victoria announced over the weekend a \$4 million investment in projects to prevent suicide among LGBTI young people in Victoria. The majority of the funding has gone to LGBTI community organisations and includes projects working in schools, with isolated LGBTI young people, social support events, training for youth workers and support for sex & gender diverse young people. An "Innovation Fund" will also be established to provide small grants to projects which help prevent suicide. See <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2575-qlbti-suicide-prevention-programs-announced.html>

Here in Queensland there are no specific LGBTI suicide prevention projects, despite Queensland having higher rates of homophobia and fewer LGBTI support services.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has found that lesbian, gay & bisexual people are:

- More likely to have had suicidal thoughts than heterosexuals (35% v. 13%)
- More likely to have made suicide plans (17% v. 4%)
- More likely to have attempted suicide (18% v. 3%)

The figures are even higher for young people and transgender and intersex people.

"Suicide and poor mental health is the largest problem facing LGBTI Queenslanders, yet we have seen a lack of action by Government in response" said Paul Martin, Executive Director.

"Queensland needs to follow Victoria's example and make a significant investment in suicide prevention services for LGBTI people, in partnership with LGBTI community organisations."

"We note that it is a Liberal government that has made this investment and call on the LNP in Queensland to make a similar commitment in the lead up to the election."

"Whether people agree or not with issues like same-sex marriage or civil unions, surely we can all agree that people shouldn't feel the need to kill themselves because of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

For further information or to arrange an interview contact Paul Martin, Executive Director on 07 3017 1791, 0407 376 540 or pmartin@gahc.org.au

* Healthy Communities is a community based, health promotion charity working with and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in Queensland (previously the Queensland AIDS Council).

For a summary of key issues affecting LGBT people see www.healthycommunities.org.au/speakout