



PRESS RELEASE

Steve Irons MP

Federal Member for Swan

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Irons' Youth Suicide Report is tabled in the Parliament

Deputy Chair of the House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee and Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons MP has this morning tabled the report he initiated into youth suicide in the House of Representatives.

The report, *'Before it's too late: Report on early intervention programs aimed at preventing youth suicide'* contains ten recommendations aimed at reducing the rate of youth suicide in young men and women through early intervention programs.

Mr Irons said he initiated the inquiry because of his work with local charities the Esther Foundation (South Perth) Youth Focus (Burswood) and SIDS and Kids (Kensington).

"Suicide accounts for a quarter of all deaths among young men in Australia and almost one in seven deaths among young women.

"Local charities are doing the best they can on the resources they have available but there needs to be more of a national approach.

"The committee has taken evidence from many stakeholders and included a public hearing in Perth. In particular I praise the young people who had the courage to come forward and give evidence about their own situations" he said.

Mr Irons said that it was now up to the Federal Government to follow-through on the recommendations of the report.

"Recommendations include giving teachers mandatory training to help them recognise and assess suicidal risk, data sharing across state governments as well as assisting students in the move between school and higher education or the workplace.

"I wholeheartedly support the recommendations and hope that these will be adopted by the Federal Government. They have the potential to save lives." he said.

Governments are normally expected to respond to committee recommendations within six months.