



Thursday, 9 September 2010

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE MORE COMMON AMONG AUSTRALIAN WOMEN THAN MEN

Women's Health Victoria is calling for greater understanding and awareness around female suicide in Australia, in conjunction with World Suicide Prevention Day.

"More women in Australia attempt suicide than men," said Women's Health Victoria Executive Director Marilyn Beaumont.

"Suicide is a serious area of concern for both men and women in Australia and yet it is too often perceived as predominately a men's issue.

"There is a misconception that women attempt suicide to seek attention and worryingly, it is this unwarranted stigma which prevents women from seeking professional help.

"World Suicide Prevention Day is a sobering reminder of the many issues which lead women to attempt suicide, which commonly include domestic violence and discrimination.

"Women who have been the victims of violence are five times more likely to attempt suicide than those who have not, while 20 per cent of Indigenous women between 12 and 17 years of age say they have seriously considered or have attempted suicide.

"Enough is enough. Women with serious health concerns need to stop being overlooked.

"Recognising that suicide is also an issue for women will make sure prevention strategies are targeted, relevant and therefore more effective.

"World Suicide Prevention Day provides a wonderful opportunity to spread the message that suicide is a major preventable cause of premature death.

"Evidence suggests that people who attempt suicide are likely to do so again in the future unless they receive help. A worldwide commitment to preventing suicide is not an option, but a matter of life and death."

Women's Health Victoria have been actively involved in raising awareness around female suicide in Australia and made a submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry on Suicide in Australia in November 2009.

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