



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader for the Government in the
Legislative Council

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

LIFE Awards For Suicide Prevention

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson, today announced the winners of the fourth Tasmanian LIFE – Living is For Everyone - Awards.

“The LIFE Awards are a key activity of the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Steering Committee (TSPSC) and recognise the contribution of individuals and organisations in promoting life and preventing suicide,” Mr Parkinson said.

“The Tasmanian awards are founded on the principle that suicide prevention is the responsibility of the whole community.”

The winner of this year’s \$1,000 Red Herring Surf Healthy Workplaces Award is the OzHelp Foundation.

The winner of the \$1,000 AAMI Healthy Communities Award is the Rural Alive and Well Program.

Mr Parkinson said the most recent Tasmanian statistics on suicide showed that between 1978 and 2004 suicide was recorded as the cause of death for 1,838 people in the State.

“In 2004 there were 83 cases of suicide in Tasmania, with males accounting for an overwhelming 79% of cases.

“The largest demographic group was males aged between 30 and 44, who represented 29% of cases in 2004.

“The TSPSC will be releasing more current statistics in its next report, due for issue early in the new year.

“But clearly the figures we have are troubling and show that as a community we need to find better ways to help overcome this awful situation.

“The winners of the two major LIFE Awards for this year are taking a lead in affirming life and preventing suicide in their particular areas.

“The awards recognise their significant contribution to combating the terrible tragedy of suicide.”

Mr Parkinson said the OzHelp Foundation had received the Red Herring Surf Healthy Workplaces Award in recognition of its significant contribution to suicide prevention for at-risk young workers in the construction industry.

“The OzHelp Foundation has instituted resilience and life skills training in the workplace to improve health and wellbeing,” he said.

“They have also instituted employee assistance services for apprentices and management education and awareness programs.”

Mr Parkinson said the recipient of the AAMI Healthy Communities Award – the Rural Alive and Well Program, based in the Southern Midlands and Central Highlands council areas – had only been in operation since July this year.

“However, the program has already made significant progress in the rural community in men’s health and wellbeing, suicide prevention and building community capacity.

“It’s important for suicide prevention to be a whole of government and whole of community responsibility and priority.

“By working together we can all make a difference.”

The Tasmanian LIFE Awards have been made possible through a partnership between the TSPSC, Suicide Prevention Australia, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Health and Ageing, and two commercial businesses – AAMI and Red Herring Surf.

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