

### **LIFELINE INTERNATIONAL REACHES MILESTONE 25<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL MEMBER**

31/03/2023 Sydney: Resources to prevent suicide across the world received a boost as LifeLine International, the Australian-based global suicide prevention peak body, reached the milestone of its 25<sup>th</sup> Member from around the world.

The Membership application from the Talian Harapan 145 Hotline, based in the nation of Brunei Darussalam, was welcomed in March 2023. This crisis line service now joins peers operating crisis support services in 23 countries, spanning every region, and across high, middle, and low-income countries operating 200 crisis line centres.

“We now have a Member on every continent, working actively on a daily basis to help people in crisis and prevent suicide,” LifeLine International President John Brogden said.

Membership has grown to now include Argentina, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Botswana, Canada (2 members), China, Fiji, Ghana, Japan, South Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Namibia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tonga, USA (2 members) and Zambia.

“With over 700,000 people dying from suicide each year globally, we must collectively work to do everything we can to save lives. Our Members operate more than 200 crisis support services with over 2.3 million help seeking crisis support contacts a year. We are now working with them all on a range of initiatives and programs to support this vital work.”

Member support activity includes, amongst others:

- Quarterly regional fora held with Members to network and exchange information, policy and processes, to build the capability and capacity of the Members, especially those in low- income and economically distressed areas
- The first round of Member grant funding, with AUD \$100K committed in 2022
- A new Member’s Portal, connecting the Membership with research, data and lessons learnt across the network
- Successful domestic and international fundraising efforts, including a new two year, AUD \$6Million dollar relationship with a leading Australian philanthropic family, to support, expand and improve services delivery by Members across the network.

“We are building relationships and increasing our connectivity with key players, including the World Health Organisation in Geneva, key regional policy advocates in Africa and the Pacific, deeper relationships with sector leaders such as the International Association for Suicide Prevention, plus key national players, for example in Malaysia where the decriminalisation debate is underway, and leading innovators in technology from the US, as well as NGOs pioneering new models for remote and rural mental health access in places like India,” Mr Brogden added.

LifeLine International has commenced planning for a global decriminalisation campaign in countries where suicide remains a crime, working with Members to get the most up to date information, data and context on prosecutions, punishments and sentencing, and where ancillary laws exist that still present barriers for help seekers.

## MEDIA RELEASE

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“Nearly half a billion people live in countries without any access to free, 24/7 crisis support and where suicide remains a crime,” Mr Brogden said. “This remains the most fundamental barrier to help seeking for people who are experiencing a crisis that leads to suicidal ideation. We must fix this.

“That’s why we are embarking on a major global campaign to be launched in September this year - to engage with countries where suicide remains a crime and to assist our Members to change laws and reduce stigma and discrimination regarding help seeking and suicide prevention.”

Finally, LifeLine International has, at the request of Members, established a lean and capable secretariat with senior staff with significant experience in suicide prevention and other skilled professionals from policy to communications.

“I’m very proud of our growth across a range of key areas over the past 24 months. We are doing this to benefit our Members and to save lives. Saving Lives is the reason we get up in the morning, and is what drives us to do more, every day, because suicide, everywhere in the world, is preventable,” Mr Brogden concluded.

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**Information:** Please visit [www.lifeline-international.com](http://www.lifeline-international.com)

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*LifeLine International serves 25 Members in 23 countries across every region, including high, middle, and low incoming countries, operating 200-plus crisis call centers and delivering more than 2.3 million help-seeker interactions annually. LifeLine Australia is a Member of Lifeline International. LLI’s Australian-based Secretariat offers its Members policy and research support, training, funding for service establishment and expansion, accreditation and operational best practice. On Members’ behalf, LLI undertakes global advocacy for suicide prevention and campaign leadership to decriminalise suicide and change laws that deter those at risk from seeking life-saving help.*

*Suicide - everywhere in the world - is preventable.*

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