

James Packer & Packer Family Foundation donate \$6 million to LifeLine International to boost global suicide prevention.

Sydney, 31.03.2023: Efforts to reduce global suicide rates have received a huge boost, thanks to a significant new \$6 million partnership between LifeLine International and the Packer Family Foundation.

Suicide remains a leading cause of death worldwide, with an estimated 700,000 people dying from the preventable cause of death globally every year – additionally, suicide remains a crime in 40-plus countries.

"I have known James Packer for 20 years and his commitment to suicide prevention is personal and genuine. James knows what it is like to live with mental illness. I can't thank him enough for his generosity. These funds will help save lives around the world", John Brogden, President of LifeLine International, said, announcing the partnership.

"This new partnership underlines a shared vision of a world without suicide - where anyone, anywhere, that needs support in times of suicidal risk, can access immediate life-saving help through crisis support services.

"On behalf of the millions of people who live with suicidal ideation, and the families and communities who support them, I extend my deepest personal gratitude to James Packer, Mrs Ros Packer AC, Gretel Packer AM and the directors of the Packer Family Foundation for this extraordinary financial commitment."

Ms Bonnie Ashton, General Manager of the Packer Family Foundation said, "The Packer Family and the Packer Family Foundation have long supported LifeLine's suicide prevention work in Australia – driven by James Packer's passion for supporting mental health.

"Lifeline is an invaluable service and a wonderful model, something which we, as Australians are so lucky to have, but something which many other countries need. The Foundation is delighted to make this special donation to LifeLine International to support their work in changing laws where suicide remains a crime and to extend their life-saving work to countries in great need," she said.

The formal announcement was made today in Sydney at the LifeLine International Annual President's Lunch, at which Mr Brogden hosted the Premier of NSW, the Hon Chris Minns MP and Mrs Ros Packer.

LifeLine International is based in Australia with 25 Member organisations in 23 countries, operating more than 200 suicide prevention crisis support centres. New Members in the last 12 months include Argentina and Ghana, second Members each from the USA and Canada, with Brunei Darussalam just admitted as LifeLine International's 25th Member.

The Packer Family Foundation has committed to a partnership valued at AUD\$6 million across FY23 and FY24 to support and expand the suicide prevention services provided by LifeLine International's Members and the global campaign to decriminalise suicide.

"This partnership will allow our Members to save more lives by breaking down the barriers to help seeking and deliver more services to people in more countries," he said. "It's so important to remember that suicide, anywhere in the world, can be prevented."

The funding will support service expansion across the LifeLine International network, notably in low and middle-income countries (where 77% of suicides occur) and assist operations badly impacted by COVID-19.

MEDIA RELEASE

The funds will also support LifeLine International's campaign to decriminalise suicide in the 40-plus countries where it remains a crime. The campaign will drive impact by Lifeline International's commitment to establish crisis line operations in countries where it seeks legislative change.

"Nearly half a billion people live in countries without access to free, 24/7 suicide prevention and where suicide is still a crime. This is too often, tragically, an insurmountable combination for people in the deepest despair and distress," Mr Brogden added.

"The Packer Family Foundation's generosity will save lives – and I thank them again for that generosity and also their great humanity, on behalf of our board, our staff and our international network of committed volunteers."

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Note John Brogden will be available for comment or interview Friday 31.03.23 by arrangement.

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About Lifeline International

LifeLine International serves 25 Members in 23 countries across every region, including high, middle, and low income 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. The 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 is preventable – everywhere in the world.

www.lifeline-intl.com

About the Packer Family Foundation

In 2015, James Packer founded the Packer Family Foundation committing \$100 million over 10 years to support medical, arts, community, and education programs. The programs the Foundation supports address some of the most complex challenges faced by communities across Australia.