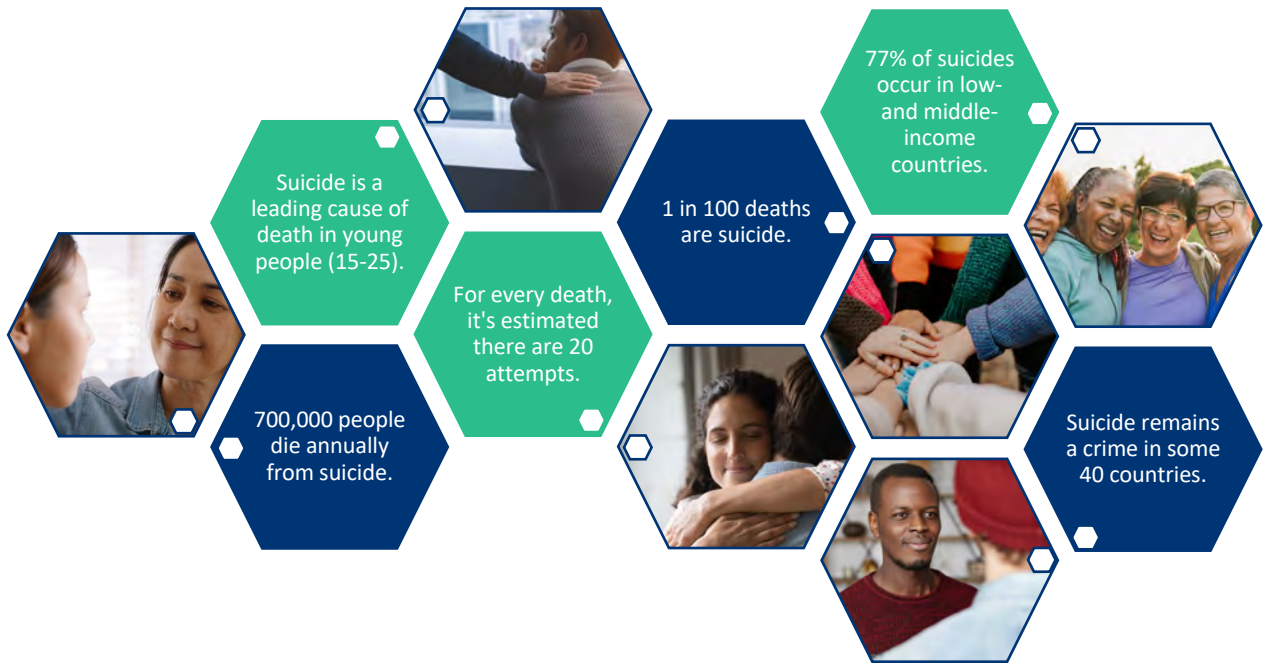


# FACT SHEET October 2023



**Who are we?** LifeLine International Incorporated is an organisation representing Members - each separately incorporated - conducting suicide prevention work by operating crisis line services. Our shared mission is to live in a world where quality suicide prevention support is available, accepted, and encouraged. Over 50 years, the organisation has grown to 27 members in 23 countries, operating over 200 crisis support services and providing more than 2.3 million help-seeker interactions annually.

**We believe that through collaboration and shared purpose, we can work towards our vision of a world without suicide.**

**What do we do?** The World Health Organisation recognises crisis lines as cost effective ways for nations to build their suicide prevention capabilities. They are regarded as accessible services that can be promoted widely in the community. Crisis lines play a critical role in the overall continuum of care in suicide prevention. Our focus is to support and help expand the crisis line services operated by our Members that are community based, mostly volunteer staffed, offering non-clinical support. We work to ensure the daily lifesaving work our Members deliver is fully recognised, valued, and supported as countries develop National Suicide Prevention strategies, in line with World Health Organisation guidelines. We engage with governments, civil society and businesses working towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 – the reduction of deaths from suicide by one third, by 2030 (target 3.4 indicator 3.4.2).

**Nearly half a billion people live in countries without any access to free, 24/7 crisis support and where suicide remains a crime.**

**What do we offer Members?** We offer advocacy and policy development as well as research projects to support our Members, boosting the capacity and sustainability of the crisis lines delivered by our Members and helping remove barriers to service delivery. Together we find collective ways to improve access for help-seekers in need and financially support start-up crisis support services in high need countries. We connect and share knowledge to improve our services and support each other. We campaign to change the law in countries where suicide remains a crime and other laws restrict access to lifesaving help.

**Who do we help?** Our ultimate beneficiaries are help-seekers - individuals in extreme distress and despair and at risk of suicide. Working through our Members, we help ensure more suicide prevention resources are available in more places, with greater access and reduced barriers to help seeking. 700,000 people die by suicide each year, and for every death, it's estimated there are 20 attempts. But we know - suicide can be prevented.

**We give a voice to help-seekers – individuals who are in fundamental emotional distress and despair, or are experiencing moments of crisis, who deserve and are entitled to access quality support and care at their moments of greatest need.**

**When did we begin?** Since 1966, LifeLine International was an informal federation of services, supporting Members to do daily lifesaving work on the frontlines of mental health and suicide prevention. Building on the pioneering work of Lifeline Australia, the organisation was initially formed with seven member countries: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, USA, South Korea and Taiwan.

**Who do we work with?** On our Member's behalf, we work at international, region and national levels, with Governments, leading NGOs such as the World Health Organisation, plus policy and academic research organisations and professionals, peer service providers, business networks as well as across the community, mental health, and suicide prevention sectors.

**Our Mission: To help create a world where quality suicide prevention support is available, accepted and encouraged for all.**

**How are we established?** LifeLine International was incorporated in Australia in 2020 and is a fully regulated registered Australian charity, representing 27 separately incorporated Member organisations. We have a small secretariat of seven full and part-time employees that support the operations, policy, advocacy, campaigning, and Members services functions we deliver. Our annual reports, financial statements, and publicly required filings are available on our website [www.lifeline-international.com](http://www.lifeline-international.com).

**Who is on the Board?** The LLI Board comprises experts in suicide prevention who serve voluntarily and take no remuneration for their commitment. The Board members are:

- President - Justin Chase (USA)
- Deputy President - Jetha Devapura (Sri Lanka)
- Secretary - Mary Parsissons (Australia)
- Treasurer - Ron Walker (Canada)
- Julian Lee (Taiwan)
- Dawn O'Neil (Australia)
- Howard Chen-Yu Ho (Taiwan)

**Where are our Members?** Our 27 Members in 23 countries span every region across high, middle, and low-income countries: Argentina, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Botswana, Canada (2 members), China, Fiji, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Namibia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, USA (3 members), Zambia, Zimbabwe. Find details of each Member on our website.

**Where does our funding come from?** LifeLine International is funded by philanthropic individuals, businesses, and foundations that share our belief in a suicide-free world. Our Members pay a subscription fee, but over the years of COVID-19 Member fees have been waived to allow them to focus all their resources on meeting the vast increase in demand arising from the pandemic. Currently, LLI receives no government funding.



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

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