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**Submission No. 6**

(Youth Suicide)

Date: 22/04/2010

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**From:** Chris Turner

**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 April 2010 4:50 AM

**Subject:** youth suicide

I recently came across a news article referring to the Youth Suicide Round Table in Melbourne, and would like to speak with you about the *Suicide Prevention Australia National Life Award* winning program, Head High.

As you are no doubt already aware, recent figures in QLD show an alarming increase in youth suicide; and that 42% of youth suicides in QLD are contagion related.

Head High is a suicide bereavement support group established by young people for young people. With up to 42% of completed Youth Suicides in QLD being young people previously bereaved by suicide, an opportunity exists to radically reduce youth suicide by ensuring young people have access to appropriate support after they are bereaved through suicide.

SunnyKids and Jesuit Social Services 'Support After Suicide' are currently discussing opportunities to implement two strategies collaboratively:

1. A National Network of youth specific suicide bereavement support groups in cities and regions around Australia.
2. A safe, professionally moderated web based support group

I have attached some information for your consideration. As I said, I would be most interested to talk further with you about these matters, by way of reference – you will find Senator Claire Moore (a member of the recent Senate Committee on suicide) to be a strong advocate of our organisation, including the Head High program.

Both myself and my colleagues at Support After Suicide would be available to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Chris Turner  
CEO

**SunnyKids**

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