

ONE MILLION DIE BY SUICIDE

The West Australian Minister for Mental Health says addressing the high rate of Indigenous suicide in WA remains a priority for the Government.

In 2006, suicide accounted for 4.9% of all Aboriginal deaths compared with 1.8% of deaths for other Australians.

“These are the shocking statistics”, said Samaritans’ Director Justine Colyer, as Samaritans’ volunteers across WA continue their dedicated emotional support. The theme for this year’s World Suicide Prevention Day was ‘Think Globally, Plan Nationally, Act Locally’. “The Samaritans based in Perth are taking that to heart”, said Justine, “We are part of a global organisation with branches in over 40 countries. Yet we have focused on serving the WA community since 1967 where more people die by suicide than on the roads”.

The Samaritans’ offer a 24-hour a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year, support service for anyone who is suicidal, despairing or at risk of becoming so. The Samaritans encourage anyone feeling this way to call us.

Contact details –

- **Support service:**

- **Emergency line:** 9381 5555
- **Youthline:** 9388 2500
- **Country line:** 1800 198 313 (Free outside of Perth metro area)
- **TTY:** 9382 8822
- **Email:** samswa@bigpond.net.au
- **Address:** 60 Bagot Road SUBIACO, WA, 6008

- **Administration**

- **Administration Phone:** 9381 5725
- **Email:** samswa@bigpond.net.au
- **Youth Office:** 9382 3811
- **Email:** youthlo@bigpond.net.au
- **Fax:** 9388 2368
- **Address:** 60 Bagot Road SUBIACO, WA, 6008
- **Website:** www.thesamaritans.org.au

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Note to editors:

The Samaritans wish to remind West Australians of the support they provide for someone who may be feeling suicidal or distressed. I would appreciate it if this article could be run as soon as possible.

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The Samaritans

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