



Speech by

KAREN STRUTHERS

MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD

Hansard 26 May 1999

SUICIDE RESEARCH

Ms STRUTHERS (Archerfield—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): Most members of this House would know someone who has taken their own life or they would know family or friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. More than 600 people commit suicide each year in Queensland and thousands attempt to take their own life. Several residents in the Archerfield electorate are members of the south-east Queensland based Survivors of Suicide Bereavement Support Association— SOS for short—and I welcome some of those members to the gallery today. The member for Springwood has also met with members of this association and he, too, supports the need for more early intervention programs to prevent suicide.

The members of SOS know exactly how much grief and suffering results from suicide. They have set up SOS as a support network and to raise community awareness about suicide. This morning in the Parliament their petition, with 883 signatures, was tabled. It calls on Governments to give a greater priority to funding early intervention and support programs to prevent people at risk of suicide from ending their lives. Our Government has committed funds to the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy and other key initiatives. I share the view that Federal and State Governments must give suicide early intervention and prevention programs ongoing priority. SOS members are volunteers. I commend their initiative and determination to save lives, rather than seeing lives end in tragedy.
