



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**World Suicide Prevention Day**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.43 pm): Saturday, 10 September marks World Suicide Prevention Day, for which this morning I attended the launch breakfast hosted by Roses in the Ocean. I think I echo the thoughts of all Queenslanders when I say that one death as a result of suicide is one too many. It is, indeed, troubling to note that suicide is the leading cause of death in men and women between the ages of 15 and 44, with around 2,500 deaths in Australia each year. As was said at the breakfast this morning, if that were the road toll, we would be horrified and reading more about it. Sadly, a further 65,000 plan or attempt to take their life each year and 400,000 people think about taking their life each year. The tragic impacts of suicide touch entire communities—parents, children, siblings, partners, friends and colleagues. Few of us will have been untouched by the untimely passing of someone who has taken their own life. Indeed, suicide can touch us all.

We as a community must ensure that we do more to understand the causes of such tragedies and how those who choose to end their lives got to the point where they simply could not go on. We need to do what we can to ensure that those who are in need get the support they require, while ensuring all Queenslanders know that services are available to all of those who are touched by suicide. We know well of the wonderful work done by organisations such as Lifeline, beyondblue, the Black Dog Institute and R U OK, but there are so many others that deserve our support for the work they do to help Queenslanders and Australians in crisis.

At today's breakfast, I was honoured to sit with Bronwen Edwards, who founded Roses in the Ocean after her brother Mark took his life eight years ago today. I knew Mark. He was a school mate of mine. Sadly, we fell out of a contact. He was a pilot. In fact, he was the youngest Australian fighter pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force. He was then a commercial airline pilot but now no more with us, not with his family or his friends, leaving a tragic hole. Days after Mark's death his family placed roses in the ocean. This organisation encourages others dealing with hardship and their families to place roses in the ocean to raise awareness of suicide and to serve as a symbol of their preparedness to reach out and ask for help.

This year Roses in the Ocean is going global. The International Association for Suicide Prevention has chosen to adopt Roses in the Ocean as the official sign of World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September. The mission is simple: prevent suicide. Funds raised are used to host community events and help keep the Suicide Prevention Lived Experience Speakers Bureau, a partnership between Roses in the Ocean and Suicide Prevention Australia, going. Today we heard another moving story from Carlo Martelli, about his lived experience with the loss of his sister Sophia three years ago.

On behalf of my colleagues—indeed, I think on behalf of everyone—I acknowledge Bronwen’s outstanding efforts and contribution in raising awareness of this all too often silent killer. The LNP committed money for mental health services in 2014-15 and established the Queensland Mental Health Commission, but there is more to do. I would like to say to all of those supporting the 22-day push-up challenge and raising awareness: congratulations. In a perfect world, we should not have to speak about it but we do. I am grateful for the forbearance of the House this afternoon.

*(Time expired)*