



PERTH CORONERS COURT

- 1 APR 2019

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**The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health**

Ref No: MC19-002248

Ms Dawn Wright
Manager Listings
Office of the State Coroner
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

21 MAR 2019

Dear Ms Wright

I refer to your letter of 7 February 2019 concerning the Western Australian State Coroner's Report on the Inquest into the deaths of 13 Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region, Western Australia. I regret the delay in responding.

The high rate of suicide among young First Australians is one of the nation's most confronting challenges. The Report provides a unique opportunity to rethink how governments can prevent youth suicide.

The Australian Government is reviewing the Report as a priority and will carefully consider its recommendations. This will inform the Government's approach towards the issue of Indigenous suicide in the Kimberley region going forward.

The Government has taken prompt action to address youth suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, recently hosted an urgent meeting in Perth with experts and members from local communities to discuss how best to respond to recent tragedies, announcing a range of initiatives to prevent youth suicide.

As a result, almost \$5 million will be provided for a range of initiatives, including fast tracking the roll out of the *Be You*, a school-based support initiative in the Kimberley and Pilbara, delivery of a targeted social media campaign, the expansion of the Young Ambassadors for Mental Health project to include a special focus in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and support to families dealing with grief with a focus on suicide prevention.

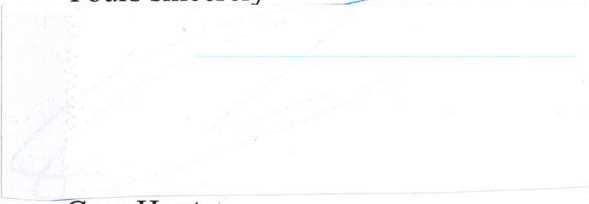
In December 2018, I held a suicide prevention summit where experts, community leaders, and representatives of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments came together to discuss new approaches to tackling Australia's suicide rate. In response, I raised suicide prevention as a national priority and a whole of government issue at a Council of Australian Governments Health Council meeting on 8 March 2018.

The Government continues to work with state and territory governments to implement the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan and support regional activity commissioned by Primary Health Networks and national activity funded through the National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program.

I am committed to this issue and supporting and working with our young people, families and communities to ensure our youth have hope for the future.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt

cc: The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care