**Case Study 4
Transcript D: Fictional interview with Mayor Rosita Lomas (at her home) regarding the suicide death of her teenage son.**

**Notes:**

* **Please note that this interview is one part of a set of four interviews making up this case study.**
* **The transcript features a series of questions and points (highlighted in yellow) for students to consider while working through this case study.**

**[INTERVIEW STARTS]**

**Reporter: Thank you for talking with me, Mayor Lomas, I understand it must be very difficult.**

**Mayor Lomas:** I just want people to know the truth about Carl. He was a good boy, and a wonderful human being…and that we all miss him so much. People have been saying terrible things about Carl.

[What might the mother be hoping to achieve by talking to the journalist? Is this appropriate?]

**Reporter: What sort of things, MAYOR Lomas?**

**Mayor Lomas:** That he drank. He never touched a drop of alcohol in his life, never.

**Reporter: Are you sure? He was 18. I mean, most eighteen-year-olds have at least tried a drink by that age.**

**Mayor Lomas:** Of course I'm sure. What are you saying, are you saying I didn't know my own son? He was a wonderful boy, especially when our other son, Frank, died. I guess at least they’re together now. If only I could join them…

[This information is highly emotional and embodies the grief felt by the mother. Is it an invasion of privacy to broadcast or print these quotes?]

**Reporter: Was Carl a happy boy, Mayor Lomas? People should remember him the way he really was.**

**Mayor Lomas:** Oh yes, always happy. He had lots of friends. None of us expected this. He had everything to live for.

[How does this compare to what the boys said? Is this consistent with warning signs and risk factors for suicide?]

**Reporter: So, you weren’t aware of any problems at all?**

**Mayor Lomas:** Well, of course, he was like any teenager, he had his ups and downs, nothing serious. He was very sad when his brother….of course, we were all very sad.

**Reporter: Was that when you threw yourself into your council work? Did Carl maybe resent that you were working all of the time?**

[Journalists should be careful about what they ask or imply at this stage. Journalists should also consider how the effects of grief may impact on what is said.]

**Mayor Lomas:** What? I don't know. I don't think so. What are you saying?

**Reporter: Nothing at all Mayor Lomas, I'm just wanting people to know the sort of person Carl was.**

**Mayor Lomas:** What sort of person? What do you mean by that? He was good boy. What are you trying to say? I don't want to talk about it anymore.

**Reporter: That's fine, Mayor Lomas. I’m sorry, I didn't mean to upset you.**

**Mayor Lomas**: I'm sorry too. Everything is just so awful at the moment.

[Should a reporter use this information after the interview has formally ended? How should the information she provides about her son be interpreted?]

**Reporter: I understand. Thank you so much for talking with me.**

**[INTERVIEW ENDS]**