

Media alert

28 August 2024 | Please cascade to all media staff

Safe and sensitive reporting regarding the findings of the Coroners Court of Victoria inquest into the deaths of five trans and gender diverse people

Australian media professionals are reminded to apply *Mindframe* guidelines when reporting on the findings of the Victorian coronial inquest into the suicide deaths of five trans and gender diverse people in 2020 and 2021, scheduled for release tomorrow.

Due to the nature of a coronial inquest, the findings will include investigation of the method of suicide and/or ways to reduce access to means as part of the process. Avoid providing explicit details about suicide methods and locations as this can prompt further suicidal behaviour in the community. If necessary, it is recommended to discuss method in general terms only.

Other recommendations for media in reporting on the Coronial Inquest findings:

- Focus on issues such as drivers of distress, for example, discrimination, exclusion or violence rather than someone's sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex characteristics.
- Take care not to imply that a death was due to a single event.
- Include information about LGBTIQ+ community strengths and protective factors as well as prevention-focused activities already underway.
- Including information about warning signs, the importance of taking thoughts about suicide seriously and how to seek help.
- Present information about suicide in context of broader issues such as policy, practice, research, rates and trends. However, take care when using statistics on LGBTIQ+ suicide and mental health concerns. While it is vital to have accurate data on distress in LGBTIQ+ communities, overuse or a focus on deaths rather than surviving and thriving can contribute to a sense of hopelessness or a deficit narrative about LGBTIQ+ people.
- Consider other issues currently affecting LGBTIQ+ communities, including other news coverage relating to LGBTIQ+ communities, and be sure to include appropriate national support services that are available 24/7 (such as Lifeline), as well as LGBTIQ+ specific services (such as QLife).

Please refer to the [*Reporting suicide and mental ill-health: A Mindframe resource for media professionals*](#). Further language guidance can be found in the [*Our words matter: Guidelines for language use*](#) along with [*guidance for the use of images*](#) when illustrating stories relating to mental health concerns.

Mindframe support for media

For free support in reporting safely on suicide, call 02 4924 6900, visit mindframe.org.au or email mindframe@health.nsw.gov.au

Everymind would like to remind all journalists, and managers supporting journalists, that reporting on these findings and distress in the LGBTIQ+ community can impact on the welfare of those covering the story. Everymind, in consultation with the DART Centre Asia Pacific, provides [self-care tips for journalists](#) as well as advice for editors and line managers.

Support services

LGBTIQ+ supports



General support services

Lifeline 13 11 14 | Text 0477 13 11 14 (24/7)
lifeline.org.au

13 YARN 13 92 76 | 13yarn.org.au
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service

Suicide Call Back Service
1300 659 467 | suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Kids Helpline
1800 551 800 | kidshelpline.com.au

StandBy Support After Suicide
1300 727 247

National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline
1800 250 015

QLife

Anonymous and free
LGBTIQ+ peer
support and referral
service, available
3pm-midnight 7 days
Call: 1800 184 527
Webchat: qlife.org.au

Other resources

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
lgbtiqhealth.org.au

Switchboard
switchboard.org.au
charlee.org.au (Information portal)

Head to Health
headtohealth.gov.au

Headspace
1800 650 890 | headspace.org.au

Reachout
reachout.com.au

An  **EVERYMIND** program

mindframe.org.au | [X@MindframeMedia](https://twitter.com/MindframeMedia)

For more information including free advice for media, please contact **Mindframe**:

mindframe@health.nsw.gov.au | X: [@MindframeMedia](https://twitter.com/MindframeMedia) | 02 4924 6900