

Mindframe* reminder for responsible reporting following death of former President of Peru, Alan Garcia.*18 April 2019****Please cascade to all media staff**

Mindframe is aware of syndicated articles appearing in Australian news media, detailing the death Alan Garcia, Peru's ex-President.

Mindframe would like to remind Australian journalists that syndicated media is still required to be in line with Australian reporting standards and editorial codes.

It has been noticed that that a number of news stories generated from overseas sources in relation to the death of Garcia are being shared across Australian media that detail methods and means used for self-harm.

Mindframe would like to strongly caution the Australian media against utilising syndicated news stories that include explicit details of method and means as this may be of harmful to vulnerable audiences, particularly individuals who are experiencing thoughts of suicide.

While we understand these news stories are of public interest, we remind media to refrain from speculating on cause of death or events in lead up to death. Instead it is recommended to wait until the death and surrounding details are confirmed by official sources.

When reporting on this story *Mindframe* strongly recommends the following:

- **Avoid:** Reporting explicit detail about method, means or location, as this may lead to imitation by vulnerable individuals. If it is essential to include method, means or location, discuss in general terms only.
E.g. "Alan Garcia died in his home on Wednesday after officers arrived to place him under detention."
- **Avoid:** Sharing or posting overseas content such as syndicated articles or social media news feeds that contain details of method, means or locations, or are otherwise not in line with Australian reporting standards and editorial codes.
- **Avoid:** Speculating on mental state prior to, and leading up to their death.
- **Include:** Audience appropriate [help-seeking](#) information for people who may be vulnerable.

Mindframe also urges Australian media professionals to be cautious when sharing video content originating from overseas media due to its potential to cause harm and distress for vulnerable audiences.

More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [Mindframe](#) website.

Help-seeking information

Adding help-seeking information to stories (online, print and broadcast) can provide somewhere for people who may be adversely impacted by the coverage to find professional support.

National 24/7 Crisis Services

Lifeline: 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 79 www.mensline.org.au

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 www.beyondblue.org.au



Support services

Adult

Lifeline: 13 11 14

lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

suicidecallbackservice.org.au

beyondblue: 1300 24 636

beyondblue.org.au

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978

mensline.org.au

Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: 1800 650 890

headspace.org.au

ReachOut: au.reachout.com

Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal

headtohealth.gov.au

Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal

lifeinmindaustralia.com.au

SANE: online forums sane.org

healthinonet.ecu.edu.au - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

1800 184 527 qlife.org.au - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex

mhima.org.au - Culturally and linguistically diverse

Self-care

Reporting suicide and mental ill-health can also impact to the welfare of journalists. To support media professionals *Mindframe*, in consultation with the **DART Centre Asia Pacific**, has developed journalism self-care resources for media professionals reporting suicide and mental illness. These resources include self-care tips for journalists as well as and advice for editors and line managers, and can be found [here](#).

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If you find any problematic media coverage, please refer directly on to Sane StigmaWatch for urgent follow up:

<https://www.sane.org/changing-attitudes/report-a-media-item-to-stigmawatch>

