

Media alert

27 July, 2023 | Please cascade to all media staff

Reminder for safe reporting on the death of Sinéad O'Connor

Australian media professionals are reminded to apply *Mindframe* guidelines when reporting on the death of Sinéad O'Connor. There is strong evidence that speculating about suicide, particularly in instances where a celebrity has died, can lead to further suicidal behaviour in the community.

The *Mindframe* guidelines should also be applied where news reports include discussion of the suicide death of O'Connor's son Shane Lunney, in January 2022. Media are reminded to avoid including details about suicide method or location and to carefully consider the language used to describe the events leading up to his death.

Media are also reminded to avoid stigmatising language in relation to O'Connor's mental health concerns, which can impact people with similar concerns or experiences. The [Our words matter guidelines](#) are available to help media choose safe and sensitive language in relation to mental health concerns and suicide.

Adult

Lifeline: 13 11 14 | Text 0477 13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

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

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au/forums

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

Standby Support After Suicide:
1300 727 247

Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

ReachOut: au.ReachOut.com

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: healthinonet.ecu.edu.au or 13YARN.org.au

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

Culturally and linguistically diverse: embracemantalhealth.org.au

Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal
headtohealth.gov.au

Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal
lifeinmind.org.au

SANE: 1800 187 263 (10am-10pm)
online forums saneforums.org

For further guidance on safe and sensitive reporting on suicide, please refer to the [Mindframe guidelines](#).

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

Reporting suicide and mental illness 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 can be found [here](#).

Contact Mindframe

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