

# Language around suicide



Suicide is a public health issue that affects individuals, families, workplaces and communities across Australia.

It is an important issue of community concern and **NEEDS** to be discussed. The way we talk about suicide is important – the words we use do matter!

Please consider the following guidelines when considering a discussion around suicide.

DO SAY	DON'T SAY	WHY?
✓ 'died by suicide' 'took their own life'	✗ 'successful suicide' 'unsuccessful suicide'	Because it suggests that suicide is a desired outcome
✓ 'took their own life' 'died by suicide'	✗ 'committed suicide' 'commit suicide'	Because it associates suicide with crime or sin
✓ 'Increasing rates' 'higher rates'	✗ 'suicide epidemic'	Because it sensationalises suicide
✓ 'suicide attempt' 'non-fatal attempt'	✗ 'failed suicide' 'suicide bid'	Because it can glamourise suicide attempts
✓ refrain from using the term suicide out of context	✗ 'political suicide' 'suicide mission'	Because it is an inaccurate use of the term 'suicide'