

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**11 March 2016**

**YNOT welcomes new Strategy for Youth Suicide Prevention.**

The Youth Network of Tasmania welcomes the release of the Tasmanian Government's Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy today.

Joanna Siejka, CEO of YNOT, said that "Young people in Tasmania regularly identify mental health as an issue they are concerned about in our consultations with them."

"Suicide prevention is an issue the youth sector and wider community care about strongly and are keen to effect change."

"It is important to have a strategy that encompasses the need for a full spectrum of services including early intervention and prevention, through to crisis support."

YNOT looks forward to working with the Tasmanian Government to address the priority areas and implement the identified actions.

YNOT was a member of the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy steering committee, working with Mental Health Services in the Department of Health and Human Services.

YNOT ran a Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) Statewide youth forum, *Mental Health Matters*, that sought the views of 150 young people, as well as a survey, that fed into the development of the Strategy.

YNOT is funded by Communities, Sport and Recreation in Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth