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## **Suicide prevention targets must be a priority this election**

Mental Health Australia has renewed its call for the development of long term suicide reduction targets following today's release of devastating suicide data across 28 Federal electorates.

The suicide rate has risen nearly 20 per cent over the last decade according to an analysis of 2014 Australian Bureau of Statistics figures prepared by consultancy group ConNetica, with the support of the Brain and Mind Institute, and the Young and Well CRC. The analysis produced electorate by electorate data for 28 Federal electorates.

"We support today's call, from leaders in suicide prevention, and from families affected by suicide, for the implementation of the National Mental Health Commission's recommendation for 12 regional trials to advance our understanding of suicide prevention strategies that work," CEO of Mental Health Australia Frank Quinlan said.

"We must reverse the rising tide of suicide, and the terrible burden it places on families, communities, and the nation."

A reduction in suicide is one of the five measures Mental Health Australia has asked party leaders to commit to this Federal election.

"We need national leadership, and coordinated local action," Mr Quinlan said.

Information on Mental Health Australia's election platform can be found on our website: <https://mhaustralia.org/general/election-2016>

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