

media monitoring

date: Wednesday 18 August 2010

media: The Examiner

Network to help prevent suicide

By PIP LEES

A SUICIDE prevention network will be established in Launceston through local branches of Headspace, ARAFMI, Rural Alive and Well and StandBy.

A meeting co-ordinated yesterday by Wesley Mission LifeForce — a national body dedicated to suicide prevention — brought together the key local groups dealing with suicide to discuss a co-operative network to provide better communication and service in the community.

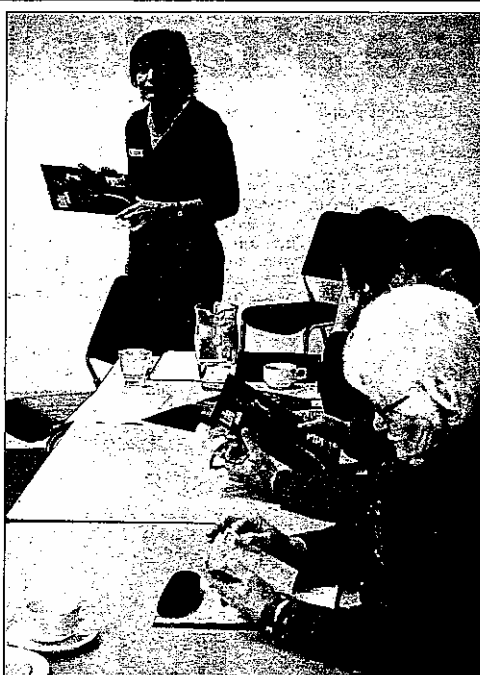
The initiative is already being implemented in Spring Bay and Glenorchy in the south of the state.

Wesley Mission LifeForce community development officer Annette Packham spoke at the meeting, explaining the role of the network.

"Each operates differently, the Spring Bay network has a very small-community focus and the Glenorchy network has been supported by the Glenorchy City Council to fit with its community wellbeing focus," Ms Packham said.

"The main purpose is to link the services we have together and get the community actively involved in preventing suicide."

Sixteen representatives from local organisations interested in being part of the network attended the meeting. They included ARAFMI, Rural Alive and Well, Headspace, Standby the Department of Health and Human Services and Aushelp.



Annette Packham talks at the Wesley Mission LifeForce suicide prevention meeting.

Picture: PHILLIP BIGGS

KEY POINTS FROM THE FORUM

- Asking someone about suicidal intentions will not encourage suicide, rather it will make them feel less anxious and alone.
- Not all people who attempt or commit suicide have a mental disorder.
- Suicide does not run in families.
- More than 2000 Australians take their lives each year.