



MEDIA RELEASE

DECLAN CROUCH FUND AND FNQ SUICIDE PREVENTION FACEBOOK PAGE TO BE LAUNCHED TODAY AT 4.30pm

April 19, 2012 – The Declan Crouch Fund and the FNQ Suicide Prevention Facebook Page will be officially launched during National Youth Week today, April 19 at 4.30pm on the front lawns of the Cairns City Library.

The Declan Crouch Fund has set a target of \$75,000 to fundraise during its first year, with all money raised to go towards suicide prevention in far north Queensland. The Dr Edward Koch Foundation will oversee the management of the fund

Declan's mother Ruth Crouch said the fund had been set up for three aims. The first being to raise awareness of suicide and suicide prevention, the second to break down the stigma of suicide and open up discussion and debate particularly in schools from the upper primary level and third to lobby for better mental health facilities in this region for young people such as a dedicated ward for suicidal young people.

"Because Declan was missing for three months, what happened to him became well known in the Cairns area and the whole of Australia and beyond, so I would like to use that high profile to try to prevent more families and friends from having to go through the pain that was caused by his suicide."

The FNQ Suicide Prevention Facebook page will also be launched at the same time as the Declan Crouch Fund. The page was set up by the Cairns YEA! Youth Advisory Group on behalf of the Dr Edward Koch Foundation.

"This is the way most young people communicate with each other and we are hoping it will become an important tool to all the other suicide prevention work we do in this region," Dulcie Bird, chief executive officer of the foundation, said.

- ENDS -

**To arrange interviews with
Dulcie Bird and Ruth
Crouch please contact
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Life Workshops
Life Bereavement Support Service
FNQ Suicide Prevention Taskforce
Life Community Service Plans
Suicide Prevention Research & Resources



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Established in 1997 in Cairns, The Doctor Edward Koch Foundation is a non-profit organisation focusing and supporting public health activities in regional Queensland. The foundation works to improve the lives of those affected by suicide and sudden unexpected death by offering one-on-one and group counselling support. At the centre of the Dr Edward Koch Foundation's work, and the heart of the organisation, is a belief that by promoting and initiating innovative preventative and educational programs, the health of a community will improve.

SUICIDE STATISTICS

- In 2009 there were more deaths by suicide (2,132) than by road accidents (1,501) in Australia. Suicide was ranked 14th as a Leading Cause of Death in Australia in 2009. Road accidents ranked 20th.
- More than three quarters (76.6%) of all persons who suicided in 2009 were males, making suicide the 10th leading cause of death for males.
- In 2009, 22.1% of all male deaths aged 15 - 24 years were due to suicide. ➤ On average, five people suicide each day in Australia. (Suicide rates in Australia seem to be relatively comparable to other English speaking nations.)
- 50-70% of people will think about suicide at some time in their lives.
- Women are more likely than men to be admitted to hospital after deliberate self harm/mutilation. Drawn from Australian Bureau of Statistics – 2009 figures, released in 2011