



# Senator Catryna Bilyk

Labor Senator for Tasmania

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SENATE SUICIDE INQUIRY HELD IN HOBART

Labor Senator Catryna Bilyk has been instrumental in ensuring that Tasmanians have the opportunity to participate in the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Suicide in Australia, which was held at Parliament House, Hobart on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

On 10 September 2009 the Senate referred the complex issue of suicide to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry. More than 200 submissions have been received, including a number from Tasmanian organisations.

“Suicide is a complex and confronting issue that touches many members of the community and people from all walks of life”, said Senator Bilyk.

“It is important that suicide is discussed in the community as a means of raising awareness about the issue. That way we can all play our part in preventing suicide.”

The Committee had the opportunity to hear from participants about the unique conditions in Tasmania in regard to suicide. Tasmania’s suicide rate continues to be much higher than the national average, being the second highest behind the Northern Territory.

“It is pleasing that the committee came to Hobart to hear the views of Tasmanians. Suicide prevention is an issue of great importance to me and something I have raised publicly on many occasions”, Senator Bilyk said.

“The broadranging inquiry will determine many of the issues that need to be addressed to lower the suicide rate.”

The inquiry is due to report its findings to the Senate on 24 June 2010.

**\Ends 20 May 2010**

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