

# Joint statement by Australia's suicide prevention leaders

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## VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING SHOULD NOT BE DESCRIBED AS SUICIDE

As organisations working in suicide prevention, we acknowledge that both suicide and voluntary assisted dying (VAD) are important issues to our communities.

The words we choose matter. It's important we keep discussions about suicide prevention and VAD separate. Confusing these terms can complicate or delay access to care.

We ask all governments, people working in suicide prevention and the media to uphold this distinction and refrain from talking about VAD as suicide.

**We encourage anyone who is commenting on the topic of suicide to be familiar with the [Mindframe guidelines](#).**



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November 2023