Submission to Productivity Commission

From Anthony Smith, co–author of The Situational Approach series of papers

Despite large amounts of funding going into the suicide prevention / mental health sector, suicide deaths are at a completely unacceptable level and continue to rise.

And quite simply, the majority of all people who kill themselves are not employed.

A priority and responsibility of the Productivity Commission should be the development of appropriate support for unemployed / underemployed people – of all ages.

An analysis by the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) (2016) shows that overall, at least 55.05% of all suicide deaths were people of working age who were NOT Employed. For women the rate is even higher – 68.38%.

That amounts to at least 1,500 suicide deaths EVERY YEAR in Australia.

To avoid this issue is to abnegate responsibility for the welfare of large numbers of people.

The people who suffer this callous indifference are not only the large numbers of men and women who kill themselves – imagine the level of torture they must go through with the multiple stresses that unemployment brings...

- but the cold hearted dismissal of this key national challenge impacts terribly on many others as well; the even larger numbers of people – parents, family and friends who are left to grieve for their lost love ones. There is no consolation for these people.

Unless we address this issue properly -the large numbers of suicide deaths among people who are unemployed or underemployed - and make it a priority of suicide prevention, we cannot possibly hope to reduce the toll of suicide deaths.

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https://research-repository.griffith.edu.au/handle/10072/57604 See Table 1 Demographic and Psychiatric Descriptive Data Page 5
Some useful relevant research papers


