



**Senator Sue Boyce**  
Queensland

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUICIDE TOLL IGNORED BY LABOR**

Queensland Liberal National Senator Sue Boyce will highlight the Gillard Government's disgusting inaction on mental health problems during a visit to Rockhampton this week.

"Labor have continued to mouth platitudes despite strong criticism from Australian of the Year, psychiatrist Professor Pat McGorry, and their own hand-picked adviser, Mr John Mendoza, a Sunshine Coast academic, about its handling of mental health.

"Even when Mr. Mendoza resigned as chair of the National Mental Health Advisory Council, Minister Macklin and other senior Ministers continued to sprout meaningless statistics instead of acting," Senator Boyce said.

Senator Boyce is a member of the Senate Community Affairs Committee which has just produced its report on suicide prevention in Australia, *The Hidden Toll*.

The report highlights the lack of treatment and lack of funding for people likely to attempt suicide, especially in rural and regional areas.

"The best estimate we have of the annual death rate from suicide is over 3000, more than the national road toll, and the Government's continued inaction in this area is deeply disappointing, not just to the experts in the mental health area but to every family that has had to deal with the anguish of a loved one attempting or committing suicide," Senator Boyce said.

Senator Boyce will be visiting Rockhampton today and tomorrow (July 13 and 14) to meet Liberal National candidate for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, and to discuss local issues.

Ends...

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