

PRESS RELEASE

“Suicide Assessment and Intervention: Men at Risk”, a new eLearning tool to help reduce the suicide rate in men, has been created by Melbourne-based company Microcraft. It was launched in Parliament House by Kay Patterson, Minister for Family and Community Services, on the 13th October 2005.

Senator Patterson said the e-Learning tool, would address the significant suicide risk factor for men following a relationship breakdown.

“I am increasingly saddened that some men feel that they have no option than to take their own lives. I am confident the new eLearning tool will improve the early identification and effectiveness of responses to these men at risk”, said Senator Patterson.

The eLearning, created by Microcraft for Crisis Support Services (CSS), targets mental health professionals and provides a framework to respond effectively to men at risk of suicide.

Microcraft worked with resource material provided by Crisis Support Services and transformed it into an attractive, interactive, educational module with synchronized voice-over, interactive questions and case studies, as well as a simulated interaction with a person at risk of suicide.

Microcraft Director, Liz McArthur, says “Microcraft enjoys pushing the boundaries of what is possible with eLearning in the field of mental health.” The company has expertise in psychology, competency-based training, media and computer science.

The innovative, interactive eLearning tool is a valuable educative resource for professionals working with men who may be at risk of harming themselves, to equip them with the knowledge and skills to assess and respond to suicide risk.

Mental health professionals are responding enthusiastically to the eLearning. It is currently being distributed to agencies within the Family and Community Services network. Further educational titles are planned.

“Very useful in highlighting gender differences in engaging men in suicide risk assessment and planning intervention”

- Janet Jones, Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention

“Mensline Australia recommends this e-learning CD as an important educative resource for engaging men who may be at risk of harming themselves”

- Terry Melvin, Mensline Australia

“beyondblue: the national depression initiative is pleased to offer its endorsement of this valuable tool for those assisting men at risk of suicide”

- Dr Kim Webber, beyondblue

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