

## MEDIA RELEASE

13 September 2011

### ONLINE COMMUNITY LAUNCHED FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST SOMEONE TO SUICIDE

To coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day on 10<sup>th</sup> September, Jesuit Social Services' Support After Suicide program will launch a unique support service just right for the modern online era.

The Support After Suicide Online Community brings together people who are bereaved by suicide and provides the opportunity for them to meet in a confidential and safe online environment. This Online Community is a space for people who have lost a loved one to suicide to share stories, ask advice and support others who have lost someone they care about to suicide. Members across Australia, including rural and regional locations, can discuss issues that are important to them and meet others who understand their experience.

Services Support After Suicide was formed in 2004 and was developed specifically to provide support for people bereaved by suicide. Program Coordinator, Louise Flynn, said the aim of the program is to assist individuals and communities to respond effectively and appropriately to people bereaved by suicide. It is important to break down the isolation and stigma and reduce the long-term and complicated suffering of the bereaved.

"We do this providing support to individuals, families and children who are bereaved by suicide and by providing resources to education, health and welfare professionals who have the capacity to support those affected by suicide."

Already those who have trialled the new online service are singing its praises. One participant recently commented, "I like connecting with other members, reading the postings and reading articles that I would not have known about."

"It is a wonderful way to keep connected and I don't feel so isolated and as if I am the only one that has gone through this. Although logically I know I am not on my own, sometimes I feel that. Since this online community has been available I know I can connect with someone at anytime."

Support After Suicide is a program of Jesuit Social Services and is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

**[www.supportaftersuicide.org.au](http://www.supportaftersuicide.org.au)**

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY** – Launch of the Support After Suicide Online Community

Launched by: Jesuit Social Services CEO, Julie Edwards.

Date: Wednesday 14th September 5 - 6.30pm

Location: Support After Suicide, 16 The Vacluse, Richmond

RSVP - Tel: 9427 9899 or email: [aftersuicide@jss.org.au](mailto:aftersuicide@jss.org.au)

**General Enquiries**  
Jesuit Social Services  
Tel: (03) 9427 7388  
Email: [jss@jss.org.au](mailto:jss@jss.org.au)  
Web: [www.jss.org.au](http://www.jss.org.au)

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**  
Erin Bright - Communications  
Tel: (03) 9427 7388  
Mob: 0425 715 727  
Email: [erin.bright@jss.org.au](mailto:erin.bright@jss.org.au)