



## THE MOVEMBER FOUNDATION WELCOMES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR 'THE WAY BACK SUPPORT SERVICE'

*Commonwealth announces \$37.6 million for mental health project spearheaded by beyondblue and the Movember Foundation*

**MELBOURNE, Australia (11 May, 2018)** – The [Movember Foundation](#), the only charity tackling men's health issues on a global scale, welcomes the Commonwealth Government's Budget commitment of \$37.6 million over four years to expand *beyondblue*'s [The Way Back Support Service](#).

Movember Foundation CEO Owen Sharp said he stood with *beyondblue* Chair Julia Gillard in commending Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt for his commitment to reducing Australia's suicide rate, while also backing Ms Gillard's call for additional support to enable a national roll out.

"We are incredibly proud that the Movember Foundation has pioneered The Way Back's success through our initial investment of \$2.25 million back in 2013. Through securing the backing of the Commonwealth Government, this much-needed resource can now be rolled out to additional locations around Australia, providing a lifesaving service to support more than 28,000 people at high risk of suicide," said Mr Sharp.

About 200 Australians attempt suicide every day and of those, on average, eight will die. Three out of every 4 suicides are men.

The Way Back Support Service pilot programs were funded by the Movember Foundation in partnership with *beyondblue*, who implemented the service at its first two locations in the Northern Territory and New South Wales.

The Way Back targets the group of Australians most at risk of suicide: those who have previously tried to take their own lives with the aim of preventing repeat suicide attempts and suicide deaths. Up to one quarter of those discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt will try to take their own lives again in the next three months and around 10 percent of this group will die by suicide.

"At the Movember Foundation we look to invest in projects that are having a real impact on the lives of men," said Mr Sharp. "There is clear evidence that The Way Back has both a measurable and significant impact, as *beyondblue* has reported that the suicide rate for people who have engaged with the service is less than one per cent."

Prior to discharge from hospitals, people are referred to The Way Back Support Service where they are assigned a professional worker who provides practical, day-to-day assistance. This includes accessing follow-up treatment and services and keeping important appointments.

Their Way Back worker assists in developing a suicide safety plan that includes information about what to avoid, what to do when suicidal thoughts creep in, who to call and where to go.

They offer support to resolve matters that may have contributed to the suicide attempt – such as employment issues, relationship challenges, isolation and loneliness – and help find hope to continue living.

The Way Back Support Service is part of the Movember Foundation's [Men's Suicide Prevention Program](#), which features a range of projects aimed at reducing the impact of suicide among Australians and their friends and families.



**Please remember to print local help lines should your media outlet choose to share suicide statistics and information.** The local numbers are: Lifeline 13 11 14; Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467; if life is in danger call 000 or go directly to Emergency Services.

**About the Movember Foundation**

The Movember Foundation has one goal: to stop men dying too young. As the only global charity tackling men's health issues year-round, the Foundation supports the following causes: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. Since 2003, the support of more than 5 million men and women has funded over 1,200 innovative projects across more than 20 countries. To donate or learn more, please visit [Movember.com](http://Movember.com).

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