

STOP THE BINGE DRINKING CULTURE

stopthebingedrinkingculture.org.nz

Young NZ men's suicide rate highest in OECD Tuesday April 24, 2012 ONE News



The **suicide among young males in New Zealand is the highest in the OECD**, according to figures released today.

Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne said it was "disappointing" New Zealand's male youth suicide rate was still the highest, despite it falling from a high of 44 per 100,000 in 1995 to 29 per 100,000 in 2009. But he said the figures need to be looked at with caution and the high ranking could be due to differences in reporting in other countries. "Stigma, cultural and social issues in some countries mean there is a real reluctance to report deaths as suicides," Dunne said.

He said there were also differences in what countries class as a suicide, while some countries were reporting on different time frames. "Nonetheless we take each and every such death as a tragedy and the Government is totally committed to addressing suicide," Dunne said. The figures for 2009, the most recent year available, show New Zealand's overall suicide rate dropped slightly from the previous year, from 11.8 per 100,000 in 2008, to 11.2 in 2009. Dunne was also concerned that the latest data is three years old, which he said was due to some coroners' investigations taking years to complete. "That is being improved. We expect to be able to release the 2010 figures later this year. Working with more current data will enable us to better target our efforts in addressing suicide."

Dunne said the Government was "totally committed" to addressing suicide. The 2009 number was 26% below the peak rate in 1998. "We have a significant youth suicide issue, particularly among young men, and that is why the Government is investing \$62 million over four years in the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project announced earlier this month," he said.

"Depression is a leading risk factor in suicide and this package works across government agencies to develop a collaborative approach." Dunne said the Government was also developing a new suicide prevention action plan between different agencies.

Ken Royson ken.royson@gic.co.nz 0274 909 342 www.stopthebingedrinkingculture.org.nz

AIMS of the Campaign

Encourage New Zealanders to;

TAKE ownership of the binge drinking problem

RECOGNIZE Binge Drinking as a social illness

PROMOTE action at all levels

Culture Changes

STIGMATISE Binge drinking Drunkenness is not cool

RESPECT for people who choose not to drink alcohol

CELEBRATE the action of those people who choose not to abuse alcohol

SOFT DRINKS must be supplied alongside alcohol at functions

NIL Alcohol at all school functions

Law Changes

All Off-Licences Closed at 7:00pm (as prior to 1989)

Total Ban on Sugar Sweetened "Cocktails in a Can" (R.T.D.) Drinks

Alcohol Awareness to be included in the Current Sex Education Syllabus

Change the Maximum Blood Alcohol Level change from .08 to .05

Expenditure on Alcohol is Personal, not Tax Deductible

Establish a Minimum Price for Alcohol

All Liquor Bottles and Cases of Liquor to show Store of Origin Labels

Store of Origin Labels to show warnings of potential fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

No Advertising Links between Alcohol and Sport or Sportspeople

No Alcohol supplied or served to under 20 Year Olds

No Alcohol may be consumed in Public Places