



# Media Release

6 May 2018

## Budget boost to Lifeline a timely injection of urgently needed funds

*beyondblue* applauds the Turnbull Government's injection of \$33.8 million into Lifeline's suicide crisis services.

*beyondblue* Chair, The Hon. Julia Gillard, AC, congratulated Lifeline Chairman John Brogden, AM, the Board and staff of the organisation which she described as an Australian institution that has saved countless lives since it first began receiving calls half a century ago.

"*beyondblue*, as a provider of phone, online and peer support for people in psychological distress, appreciates the need to answer every contact as quickly as possible and maintain well-trained staff and volunteers to offer the right advice – or emergency response – while working under intense pressure," Ms Gillard said.

"I also commended the Prime Minister and Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt for their commitment to reducing Australia's suicide rate, which is at a 10-year high. Eight people in Australia take their lives every day.

"We know how much this funding boost means to our friends and colleagues at Lifeline, and we look forward to continued collaboration with this great organisation for the benefit of people in need and their families.

"Lives will be saved."

Mental health professionals are available at the *beyondblue* Support Service via phone 24/7 on **1300 22 4636** or via [www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support) for online chat (3PM – 12AM AEST) or email responses (within 24 hours).

Contact the Online Forums at [www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/online-forums](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/online-forums)

**Contact:** [media@beyondblue.org.au](mailto:media@beyondblue.org.au)  
**Head of Media:** Carmel Egan 0476 803 991  
**Senior Adviser:** Carly Crawford 0487 800 065  
**Senior Adviser:** Sandro Olivo 0488 500 487

*beyondblue*  
PO Box 6100, Hawthorn West VIC 3122  
*beyondblue* Support Service 1300 22 4636  
[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)