



Media Release.

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Leading Online Charity Applauds Broadband Decision

One of the world's leading online charities the Inspire Foundation has enthusiastically welcomed the Federal Government's decision on the new National Broadband Network as a positive and far-sighted decision.

Inspire's Executive Director Jack Heath said the move opens up exciting new opportunities to use technology to improve young people's mental health and wellbeing.

With Federal Government funding, Inspire launched ReachOut.com.au in 1998 to tackle Australia's then escalating rates of youth suicide.

Since then, national youth suicide rates have fallen by 57 percent.

"Before 1995, no one had imagined you could deliver a youth mental health service online, Mr. Heath said.

"In the mid 1990s, only 5 percent of young people had internet access - today well over 90% of young people are regularly online enabling Inspire to connect with more than 300,000 young Australians a year," Mr. Heath said.

Through the new National Broadband Network, Inspire will be able to deliver new and innovative mental health initiatives and keep Australia at the forefront of health promotion globally.

Mr. Heath said seeking help was crucial to improving mental health. Recent user profiling suggested 59 percent of young people had spoken to a health professional after visiting Reach Out.

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About the Inspire Foundation (www.inspire.org.au)

Inspire is an Australian non-profit organisation established in 1996 with a mission to help millions of young people lead happier lives. By combining the power of technology with the face-to-face involvement of young people, we deliver national online programs, www.reachout.com.au and www.actnow.com.au, that improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

Contact

Johanna Jarvis
Media and Public Relations Manager
Mobile: 0433 791188
Business: 0283339320
Johanna@inspire.org.au

09 04 03 0001



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