

Sample good news letter about suicide

Ms Georgia Smart
Radio Alpha
PO Box A24
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Ms Smart

I am writing to congratulate you on your article 'It's okay to talk' on October 14 in the Weekday Gazette. ❶

I was deeply moved by your coverage of suicide, it helped to raise awareness of this complex issue and work towards suicide prevention. Suicide can be extremely difficult to understand and to talk about, but highlighting the contributing factors and encouraging help-seeking behaviour is very beneficial. ❷
The media have a powerful role in helping to reduce the stigma attached to talking about suicide. I believe that this article goes some way towards this and I look forward to seeing more coverage of a similar nature in the future. ❸

I have also nominated this article as a SANE StigmaWatch 'Good News' story for responsible and accurate portrayal of suicide. SANE Australia are a national mental health charity - to find out more about mental illness and suicide or for advice on reporting of these issues, visit www.sane.org. ❹

Yours sincerely

Ron Costa

Cc
SANE StigmaWatch ❺

- ❶ Provide full details of the item you wish to congratulate.
- ❷ Give details about what you feel was good about the piece / the way in which the media coverage will help to reduce stigma, or promote awareness and try to include some facts to illustrate this.
- ❸ Encourage them to continue delivering positive and informative coverage.
- ❹ Inform them that they have been nominated to SANE StigmaWatch for the 'Good News' files.
- ❺ Refer them to SANE for further information about mental illness and suicide for future reporting.
- ❻ Note that you have copied your letter to SANE StigmaWatch.

SANE StigmaWatch

SANE StigmaWatch monitors media portrayals of mental illness and suicide, to ensure they are accurate and respectful. SANE StigmaWatch is a program of the SANE Media Centre, which works in partnership with the National Media and Mental Health Group to provide expert advice to the Australian Government's Mindframe National Media Initiative.

Tel 03 9682 5933

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www.sane.org

Visit the SANE website for information about mental illness and related issues.