

MENTAL HEALTH — KARRATHA

Petition

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [9.01 am]: Before I begin, I would like to offer my condolences to Kristie and her family on the passing of their loved one. I have a petition from Kristie that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. It contains 2 625 signatures and reads as follows —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, urgently call on the State Government to provide a residential inpatient/outpatient facility for mental health issues with residential psychiatrists who can provide consistent ongoing care and medication to ensure accurate diagnosis and support in Karratha.

On February 1st 2024, my 21-year-old son took his own life due to deficiencies in mental health care and resources in Karratha. The help received in the last 10 months was unacceptable, insufficient, and resulted in the loss of his life.

There is a high incidence of suicide amongst youth and adults in our community due to inadequate care for all mental illnesses. Karratha needs easy access to reliable, consistent Psychiatry/Psychologists and Paediatrics for all mental health issues including ADHD, anxiety, depression, bi-polar mood disorders, autism etc. The current referral methods and specifically the wait times with locum psychiatric rotations of 6-week intervals are insufficient. We are deemed a city with a \$200 million dollar state of the art hospital with no inpatient care for mental illnesses. We have the richest economy of WA with a high rate of suicide that's hidden and inadequate professional help. R U OK isn't enough. It's time for the community to be heard. Everyone knows someone with mental health issues. We need easily accessible efficient services, instead of more loss of life.

Your Petitioners therefore respectfully request the House of Legislative Assembly. to provide Karratha/Pilbara with an inpatient/outpatient mental health facility with adequate psychiatric professionals that are based residentially for consistent ongoing care, to give accurate diagnosis, medication, and ongoing support for both youth and adults suffering mental health issues. Mental Health is a priority that needs to be addressed within our community.

[See petition 52.]