



31st World Congress Language Guidelines

Delegates are asked to follow Australia's [Mindframe Guidelines](#) for best practice public communication of suicide. These aim to reduce risk of harm while increasing awareness and understanding of suicide and its complexities.



Language guide

Certain language can be problematic when discussing suicide. The language guide below provides some examples of problematic language and suggested safer alternatives.

 PROBLEMATIC	 PREFERRED
'committed suicide' or 'commit suicide'	'died by suicide' or 'took their own life' or 'suicide death'
'unsuccessful suicide attempt' or 'failed suicide attempt'	'suicide attempt' or 'non-fatal suicide attempt'
'suicide epidemic'	'increasing suicide rates' or 'higher suicide rates'

Avoid sharing details of suicide method and location

Research shows that public communication that includes descriptions of suicide method or location has been associated with increased rates of suicide behaviour and imitation of the suicide method/location.

 PROBLEMATIC	 PREFERRED
Detail about method or location of suicide	No details of method or location. If needed, use general terms instead of specific details
Images that show method or location of a suicide	No photos, illustrations, diagrams or video that show suicide method or location

For further information, please visit:

- Mindframe: www.mindframe.org.au
- IASP: www.iasp.info
- Responsible reporting of suicide during COVID-19: <https://youtu.be/gozDLnno7A>
- If in need of support, please visit the 'Find a Helpline' online tool: www.iasp.info/resources/Crisis_Centres/

