Suicide stats:

This is not just about Geelong or Victorian teenagers – teen suicide is a national crisis.

Every week, two children, likely aged mid to late teens, are killing themselves in Australia, according to the latest ABS figures. And the figure is rising with the latest statistics from 2017 showing an increase of 10 per cent on the previous year. They are likely to be aged 15 to 17. Meanwhile, countless other teens are self-harming.

* ABS found that suicide was leading cause of death for kids aged 5 to 17 in 2017 when 98 children killed themselves.
* Quote: “In 2017, suicide remained the leading cause of death of children between 5 and 17 years of age, with 98 deaths occurring in this age group.”
* This was a 10.1 per cent increase on suicides in this age group in the previous year, 2016, according to the ABS.

Other leading authorities also paint a dark picture of teen suicide.

* Suicide was the leading cause of death among people aged 15–24 (34%), followed by land transport accidents (21%), according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s 2018 Australia’s Health report under its leading causes of deaths.
* For people aged 25–44, it was also suicide (21%), followed by accidental poisoning (12%), the institute said.

Let’s not mince words, they killed themselves and hundreds of others self-harmed. Even the ABS in its ‘Causes of Deaths in Australia, 2017” report, said “Deaths of children by suicide is an extremely sensitive issue”. But it IS an issue.

* ABS found that the child suicide rate was 2.4 per cent per 100,000 people in 2017, with the male rate of 2.9 deaths substantially higher than the female rate of 1.9.

It is the mid to late teens who are killing themselves. This age group is vulnerable to cyberbullying etc.

* The ABS found that nearly 80 per cent of child suicides were aged between 15 and 17.
* This translates to 8.4 deaths per 100,000, compared to a rate of 0.7 per cent for 5 to 14-year-olds.

In 2017, one in five of all child deaths was due to suicide nationally.

* The ABS found that of 467 deaths of children aged 5 to 17 in 2017, that 98 deaths or 21 per cent was due to suicide.
* It found that of the 270 deaths of males in that age range and year, 63 deaths or 23.3 per cent was suicide.
* It found that of the 197 deaths of females in that age range and year, 35 deaths or 17.8 per cent was suicide.

BOYS are killing themselves at almost twice the rate as girls.

* In 2017, 63 boys aged 5 to 17 killed themselves, while 35 girls suicided.

SOURCE: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/3303.0~2017~Main%20Features~Intentional%20self-harm,%20key%20characteristics~3>

ABS 3303.3 – Causes of Death, Australia, 2017.

SOURCE:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (govt agency)

https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/96909f12-5e9d-4531-a32a-34e414c6b862/aihw-aus-221-chapter-3-2.pdf.aspx