

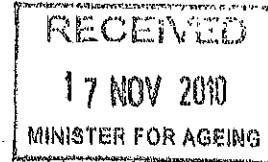


FEDERAL LABOR MEMBER FOR BASS

*Geoff* LYONS



*Lyons/Jacobson*



*(11) MC - MS (M)  
MB - MB  
Mental H*

4 November 2010

The Hon Mark Butler MP  
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing  
PO Box 2038  
PORT ADELAIDE SA 5015

Dear Mr Butler

I have had a constituent contact my office seeking an explanation regarding the suggested closure of the Launceston Lifeline telephone room in February 2011.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter, which you will find self-explanatory.

Can you please provide clarification on this matter. I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Lyons MHR  
MEMBER FOR BASS

*M10041498  
6/12*

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing	
17 NOV 2010	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call
	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
.....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent by
Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Constituent	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Background Information Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to
.....	
Comments:	

Mr. Geoff Lyons MP,  
100 St John Street,  
PO Box 5035,  
Launceston TAS 7250

29<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Dear Mr. Lyons.

RE: Lifeline at Launceston.

At Launceston I am a volunteer telephone counselor for Lifeline.

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I am advised our Lifeline telephone room is likely to close in February 2010. The Board of Management / administrators say this is because there are insufficient funds to keep the operation going. In particular, as I understand it, the downturn in the economy has meant our Lifestyles store at Mowbray is no longer selling enough goods.

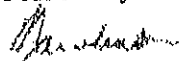
Notwithstanding that, I recall during July 2010 Prime Minister Gillard pre-election advised all Australians of a Labor Party policy to spend an extra \$276 million in suicide prevention, of which \$18 million would specifically go to expand Lifeline services.

To me, it does not make sense to willingly accept closure of an established Lifeline phone room when an increased community need to access mental health services exists. The Lifeline crisis call phone room at Launceston assists Australians from all States and Territories of Australia.

What may be done to keep our Lifeline telephone service operational beyond February 2010 in your Bass electorate?

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Yours faithfully,



Peter Jacobson

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