

Ms Georgie Smart  
*Alpha News*  
PO Box A24  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Ms Smart

I am writing to complain about the reporting of a recent case of suicide in *Alpha News*, 14 October, on page 2. The report titled 'Eighties Rock Star Finds Peace at Last', gave a detailed account of the suicide location and the method used by the rock star.

As the Australian Government guidelines, *Reporting Mental Illness and Suicide*, state, disclosing details in regards to suicide method, or location, may lead to 'copycat' attempts by people who are vulnerable, or may 'normalise' suicidal behaviour.

As a regular reader I would appreciate it if *Alpha News* can report on suicide more thoughtfully in the future, taking note of these recommendations that encourage media outlets to ensure *'the method of suicide is not described in detail, displayed, photographed, or given prominence. If it is important to the story, discuss the method and location in general terms only'*.

For a copy of *Reporting Mental Illness and Suicide* you can visit the Mindframe website at – [www.mindframe-media.info](http://www.mindframe-media.info). You may also be interested to visit [www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org) - the website of SANE Australia, the mental health charity – that offers straightforward information on suicide and mental illness, as well as research and advice for media professionals through the SANE Media Centre.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Ron Costa