

## **Impact of alcohol use on suicidal behaviours: research and prevention**

Dr Kairi Kõlves

Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention

National Centre of Excellence in Suicide Prevention

WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Suicide Prevention

Griffith University

Research has shown that suicidal behaviours are impacted by chronic and acute alcohol consumption. Indeed, based on psychological autopsy studies between 19% and 63% of people who died by suicide suffered from substance use disorders, mostly from alcohol dependency or abuse (Schneider, 2009), being highest in Estonia (Kõlves et al, 2006). Recent Australian study found that 25% of middle-aged individual who died by suicide had a diagnosable alcohol use disorder at the time of death (De Leo et al, 2013). Acute alcohol intoxication has been less studied, nevertheless between 10-69% of people who died by suicide were under influence of alcohol (Cherpitel et al, 2004). The aim of the current presentation is to give an overview of recent literature and Australian research on potential link between alcohol consumption and suicidal behaviours and to discuss potential for prevention.