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## FOREWORD

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Suzane Fabian is to be congratulated for her courage in tackling such a difficult subject.

The feelings surrounding the subject of childhood suicide are so intense that most of us are unwilling or unable to address it. Her title, *The Last Taboo*, is apt. Childhood has been romanticised. There is a deeply entrenched myth that it is a time of security and bliss. For many, unfortunately, it is a time of loneliness, unhappiness, conflict and sometimes suicide.

By interviewing children, parents, social workers, nurses, doctors and teachers, Suzane Fabian has given a voice to some who usually remain voiceless. At last they have the opportunity to be heard.

She should be admired for her perseverance in writing this book, in spite of considerable opposition. The subject is too important to be left to the professionals alone. The more complex the social problem, the more important it is to widen the range of people who examine and write about it.

Until recently, no one wrote about suicide among the young. For the past two decades, psychiatrists and psychologists have written about it. Suzane Fabian, as a teacher, historian and writer, brings a fresh approach and opens up the subject to general view.

This book is likely to give comfort to many by helping them discover that they are not alone with their troubles.

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Lang, M. (1986). Foreword. In S. Fabian, *The Last Taboo: Suicide and Attempted Suicide Among Children and Adolescents* (p. 1). Australia: Penguin Books.