

**'The Girl Least Likely', Australian Story, ABC TV**

**Belinda Hawkins (Producer) and Elena Christie (Editor)**

'The Girl Least Likely' tackles the sensitive and delicate issue of teenage suicide through the story of Hannah Modra, a 17-year old Melbourne teenager who tragically took her own life.

Beautiful, clever and popular, Hannah came from a close-knit family and was a committed Christian. But within the pages of her diary, she kept a secret – detailing her rapid descent into adolescent depression and her attempts to wrestle with an inexplicable and overwhelming sadness for which she was too embarrassed to seek help.

On 30 January 2008, the day she was awarded her prefect badge for final-year High School, Hannah Modra committed suicide. There were none of the usual warning signs – no drug or alcohol abuse, no arguments. It came as a complete shock to both Hannah's family and friends.

On the advice of the Coroner's psychologist, the Modra family talked to Australian Story in the hope of spreading the message that, as one of the most common illnesses among teenagers in Australia, adolescent depression, if untreated, can kill.

*Australian Story* was given extraordinary access to the Modra family's story and the most private parts of Hannah's life – demonstrating an enormous amount of courage and trust by the family in what was undoubtedly an intensely revealing and difficult process.

'The Girl Least Likely' has attracted remarkable responses from both health professionals and the general public; in particular, other teenagers who wrote to Australian Story with accounts of having been encouraged to seek professional help for their own depression, following the screening of Hannah's story.

'The Girl Least Likely' is now being used in a wider campaign aimed at generating greater understanding about teenage depression and the ways in which to tackle it.