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Media Release

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Suicide prevention trial for Kimberley region

The Turnbull Government will establish a landmark suicide prevention trial site in Western Australia's remote Kimberley region, helping lead the way in tackling suicide rates in indigenous communities across the country.

This is part of the additional \$192 million we committed during the election and is one of 12 suicide prevention trial sites, and is on top of the bold reforms we had already set in motion last term.

We are a Government dedicated to action on improving the mental health of the nation and reducing suicide rates, and our announcements supporting indigenous and remote communities, youth and veterans in recent days demonstrates that.

We must, as a nation, address the tragic over-representation of suicide rates in remote and indigenous communities such as the Kimberley, where the age-adjusted rate of suicide is more than six times the national average.

The Kimberley trial site will help us develop a model of suicide prevention we can tailor specifically to the unique and often culturally-sensitive requirements of remote and indigenous communities

The Country WA Primary Health Network (PHNs) will commission the Kimberley suicide prevention trial, and follows on from the appointment of the Perth South PHN to lead similar trials into youth and indigenous suicide.

These trials will bring together best practice, expertise and local knowledge to tailor mental health solutions specific to their community needs. Commissioning them through local PHNs will ensure a focus on community education, integrating services at the local level and post-discharge follow up.

Consultation and collaboration is critical, with involvement from communities, elders, carers, local services, state government programs, health professionals and community health workers all essential if we are going to seriously tackle suicide prevention in high risk groups.

Health is a number one priority for the Coalition and we will leave no stone unturned in our effort to address the causes and impacts of suicide on our communities.

It is part of the Turnbull Government's broader reform agenda to deliver stronger, more effective primary health care with a focus on person-centred care, delivering services that start with early intervention and prevention, regionally focussed, integrated and utilising digital technology.

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