



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conference Strengthens Indigenous Suicide Prevention

Leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in tackling suicide have received Australian Government scholarships to enable them to attend this week's National Suicide Prevention Conference.

Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt AM, said their participation would provide important perspectives and contribute to the knowledge shared at the event, to be hosted in Brisbane by Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) from 26-29 July.

“Sharing ideas, experiences and bringing together people involved in suicide prevention and those with lived experience is crucial to finding the best ways forward,” Minister Wyatt said.

“The Turnbull Government is pleased to sponsor both the conference and the indigenous participants.

“We are committed to suicide prevention around Australia but we need a special focus on indigenous suicide, to help reduce the unnecessary loss of life that contributes to the difference in indigenous and non-indigenous life expectancy.”

Approximately 400 people, including 11 scholarship recipients, are expected at the conference, which has the theme “Relationships, resilience and respect: Responding to vulnerability in life”.

The conference aims to increase the profile of indigenous suicide prevention, with a focus on learning from programs featured in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project.

“The conference will complement the Turnbull Government’s \$34 million commitment to 12 national suicide prevention trials, which will gather evidence on better suicide prevention in regional areas of Australia, particularly in high-risk populations” Minister Wyatt said.

Specific areas of focus for the trials include Indigenous communities in the Kimberley and Darwin regions and former Defence Force members in Townsville.

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