



**To:** Minister Hunt

**Subject:** COUNTERSIGNATURE AND EXECUTION OF THE NT AND ACT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE WAY BACK SUPPORT SERVICE

**Critical date:** 8 July 2019 to allow for the Bilateral Agreements to be executed as soon as practicable.

**Recommendations:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Sign the Bilateral Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure, with the Northern Territory Government ( <u>Attachment A</u> ).           | 1. <u>Signed</u> /Not signed/Please discuss |
| 2. Sign the Bilateral Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure, with the Australian Capital Territory Government ( <u>Attachment B</u> ). | 2. <u>Signed</u> /Not signed/Please discuss |
| 3. Sign the response to Northern Territory Health Minister, the Hon Natasha Fyles MLA ( <u>Attachment C</u> ).   | 3. <u>Signed</u> /Not signed/Please discuss |
| 4. Sign the response to the Australian Capital Mental Health Minister, the Hon Shane Rattenbury MLA ( <u>Attachment D</u> ).                                     | 4. <u>Signed</u> /Not signed/Please discuss |

Signature

Date:

6 / 7 / 19

**Media Release required?** YES/ NO

**Comments:**

Contact Officer:	Tracy Gurnett	A/g Assistant Secretary, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Branch	Ph: (02) 6289 1926 s22
Clearance Officer:	Chris Bedford	A/g First Assistant Secretary, Mental Health Division	Ph: (02) 6289 5327 s22

**Issues:**

1. On 1 April 2019, you agreed to the Bilateral Agreement for the Way Back Support Service and signed a letter to formally offer the Agreement to the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Health Ministers, for commencement of the Agreement MS19-000541 (Attachment E).
2. The Northern Territory Minister for Health, the Hon Natasha Fyles MLA, and the Australian Capital Territory Minister for Mental Health, the Hon Shane Rattenbury MLA, have signed the Bilateral Agreements for Beyond Blue's the Way Back Support Service. Your countersignature is required to bring the Bilateral Agreements into effect for the jurisdictions. The Bilateral Agreements for your signature are at Attachment A and B. A copy of Minister Natasha Fyles and Minister Rattenbury's response are also included.

**Background:**

- The Way Back Support Service is a model of service delivery that provides follow-up care to individuals for up to three months following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis by providing non-clinical, assertive outreach, follow-up care and practical support to individuals.
- The 2018-19 Budget measure *Prioritising mental health – aftercare following a suicide attempt* comprises:
  - \$10.5 million for Beyond Blue to provide national support and oversee the implementation of the Way Back Support Service; and
  - \$27.1 million for PHNs to commission the Way Back Support Service, contingent on co-contributions from states and territories.
- Beyond Blue will contribute an additional \$5 million to support the measure.

**Attachments:**

- A: NT Bilateral Agreement and response from NT Health Minister.
- B: ACT Bilateral Agreement and response from the ACT Mental Health Minister.
- C: Response to the NT Health Minister.
- D: Response to the ACT Mental Health Minister.
- E: Ministerial Submission MS19-000541 – Formal Offer of the Way Back Support Service Bilateral Agreement to the ACT and NT.

**Relevance to Election Commitments / Budget Measures:**

The roll out of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service was announced in the 2018-19 Budget. This measure is consistent with the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan which commits governments to provide timely follow-up support to people affected by suicide.

**Consultations:**

The Department has consulted with Beyond Blue on this submission.

**Impact on Rural and Regional Australians:**

The proposed Way Back Support Service sites include regional areas of Australia.





MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Parliament House  
State Square  
Darwin NT 0800  
minister.fyles@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146  
Darwin NT 0801  
Telephone: 08 8936 5610  
Facsimile: 08 8936 5562

The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing in response to your letter dated 1 April 2019 offering a Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory for the *Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure* to support the expansion of Beyond Blue's *The Way Back Support Service* in the NT.

I am pleased to confirm the NT Government's support of this initiative. It complements and aligns with evidence-based suicide prevention activities set out in the *Northern Territory's Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention Implementation Plan 2018-2023* and the *National Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan*.

I further believe there are compelling reasons for investing in universal access to post-attempt care for everyone that attempts suicide and presents at an Emergency Department and that this investment in aftercare will provide a good return on investment for reducing suicide rates.

I am pleased to attach the signed bilateral funding agreement between Northern Territory Government and the Commonwealth Government to commence jointly funding *The Way Back Support Service* in the NT for the agreed amounts from 2018 to 2022.

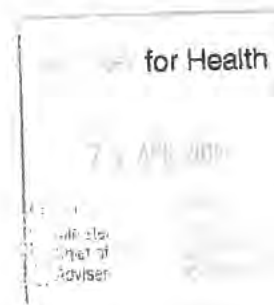
I look forward to continuing the important work on further developing more systematic and strategic approaches to suicide prevention within Australia.

Yours sincerely

Natasha

NATASHA FYLES

17 APR 2019



# **Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure**

## **Part 1 — Preliminaries and Intent**

1. The Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the states and territories have committed to work together, through the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, to ensure there is consistent and timely follow-up care for people who have attempted suicide.
2. This Bilateral Agreement (the Agreement) recognises the mutual interest and investment of the Commonwealth and the states and territories in ensuring people discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis have access to appropriate follow-up care that supports them to engage with, and stay connected to, the health and social supports needed to enhance their prospects of recovery.
3. The Agreement sets out an agreed approach to progress the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
4. This Agreement is entered into on the understanding that the states and territories will not be disadvantaged or worse off as a result of any subsequent agreement the Commonwealth makes with any other state or territory that could impact on the implementation and financial contributions of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure in the states and territories.

## **Part 2 — Parties and Operation of Agreement**

### ***Parties to the Agreement***

5. The Agreement is between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

### ***Commencement, duration and review of the Agreement***

6. The Agreement will commence on the date of signing.
7. The Agreement will expire on 30 June 2022. The Commonwealth and the states and territories will consider arrangements beyond this point.

### ***Interoperability***

8. The Agreement is to be considered in conjunction with:
  - a. The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan;
  - b. The National Healthcare Agreement 2012; and
  - c. Any relevant state and territory mental health plans.



9. Schedules to this Agreement include, but are not limited to:

a. Schedule A: Implementation Plan

### **Part 3 — Objectives, Outcomes and Activities**

10. The overarching objective of the Agreement is to support the implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure to:

- a. expand the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions to provide follow-up care for individuals for up to three months after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
- b. reduce suicide re-attempts and deaths for individuals following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
- c. reduce readmissions to hospital emergency departments and enhance the likelihood of recovery for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis.

11. The Parties will contribute to the achievement of these objectives and outcomes through:

- a. demonstrating a financial commitment to support the commissioning of the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions;
- b. supporting an integrated approach to service planning and coordination between Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks to improve service pathways for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
- c. assisting to promote the Way Back Support Service in participating regions, while taking into account other relevant supports available to assist individuals recovering from a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
- d. supporting and contributing to the sharing of relevant health service data to inform monitoring and evaluation of the Way Back Support Service.

12. All activities undertaken under this Agreement should be consistent with the priorities and objectives of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

#### **Data Collection**

13. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure as specified in Schedule A: Implementation Plan.

### ***Areas for Collaboration***

14. The Parties agree to work together, in conjunction with Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks, and other stakeholders, to establish priority locations for the Way Back Support Service.
15. The Parties agree to work together and with Beyond Blue to ensure that Activities funded under this Agreement are consistent with the Way Back Support Service model.

## **Part 4 — Roles and responsibilities**

16. The Parties agree to work together to implement, monitor, refine and evaluate the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure under the Agreement, and agree to share information to assist with planning and policy development, subject to privacy requirements.

## **Part 5 — Monitoring progress and evaluation**

### ***Bilateral Monitoring Progress***

17. Progress will be monitored and reported in accordance with Schedule A: Implementation Plan. This will support early identification and/or resolution of implementation issues; inform refinement of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure; and support evaluation of Agreement activities.
18. Monitoring activities will include:
  - a. updates as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue;
  - b. bilateral officer-level discussions as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues; and
  - c. ad hoc reporting, as agreed by the Parties.

### ***Evaluation***

19. The Commonwealth will fund Beyond Blue to commission an evaluation of the Way Back Support Service for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
  - a. Beyond Blue will consult with the Parties on the evaluation through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue.
  - b. The evaluation will examine the implementation of the Way Back Support Service in preventing suicide and improving care for people who have been discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt.
  - c. The Commonwealth will provide a copy of the evaluation report to jurisdictions.



### ***Risk and Issues Management***

20. The Parties agree that they will continually monitor, review and take necessary action to manage risks over the life of the Agreement. Where agreed by both Parties, relevant Schedules will be updated to reflect any substantive changes or extension to activities to effectively manage identified risks.
21. Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with reasonable prior notice in writing on any implementation issues and risks that may impact on the progress or success of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure activities.
22. If risks eventuate at any time for either party, the Party with primary responsibility for the risk will work with the other Party and Beyond Blue to develop agreed mitigation proposals.

### **Part 6 — Stakeholders**

23. To support appropriate linkages and align Agreement activities with existing programs and services, the Parties will communicate as appropriate with key stakeholders, as identified by the Parties, throughout the life of the Agreement, including through existing communication channels, mechanisms and forums.

### **Part 7 — Communications**

24. The Parties agree to a collaborative and cooperative approach to external communications consistent with the aims of this Agreement.
25. The Parties agree to consult with one another and Beyond Blue about any significant publications or announcements, including media releases, relating to this Agreement to ensure that each party has sufficient time to participate in those opportunities.
26. If there is any doubt about the significance of a proposed publication or announcement, the Parties agree to liaise with each other and Beyond Blue to determine whether the other Party or Beyond Blue wish to be involved.
27. The Parties will use all reasonable endeavours to respond to each other in respect of urgent publications or announcements in a timely manner.

### **Part 8 — Governance of the Agreement**

#### ***Disputes under the Agreement***

28. Any Party may give notice in writing to the other Party of a dispute under the Agreement.
29. The Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute at officer-level in the first instance.
30. If the issue cannot be resolved at officer-level, it may be escalated to the relevant executive officers and Ministers.

#### ***Variation of the Agreement***

31. The Agreement and its Schedules may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by the relevant Parties.

#### ***Enforceability of the Agreement***

32. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of the Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, this does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the Agreement.

#### ***Termination of the Agreement***

33. The Parties may withdraw from the Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other Parties and Beyond Blue.
34. Following notification of a Party's Intention to withdraw from the Agreement, the terms of the withdrawal, including the date on which the Party will cease to be a Party, and any legislative changes and other arrangements that may be necessary as a consequence of the withdrawal, will be negotiated in good faith and agreed between the Parties, on a basis which aims to ensure continuity of support for people in receipt of supports funded through the Agreement.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## Definitions

35. The following definitions are applicable throughout the Agreement and all Schedules to the Agreement.

Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure	The Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is an initiative announced in the 2018-19 Federal Budget to support the roll out of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions.
Local Hospital Network (LHNs)	<p>A Local Hospital Network is an organisation that provides public hospital services. A Local Hospital Network can contain one or more hospitals and is usually defined as a business group, geographical area or community. Every Australian public hospital is part of a Local Hospital Network.</p> <p>In some jurisdictions, a Local Hospital Network may also include community health services.</p>
Primary Health Networks (PHNs)	Primary Health Networks are independent organisations established to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Primary Health Networks have skills-based boards, which are informed by clinical councils and community advisory committees.
Schedule A: Implementation Plan	Schedule A is an Implementation Plan that includes details about service delivery and financial information specific to each jurisdiction.
Suicidal Crisis	A suicidal crisis is a situation in which an individual is believed to be in imminent danger due to contemplating or planning to take their own life.
The Way Back Support Service	The Way Back Support Service is a non-clinical support service focussed on providing practical psychosocial support to people experiencing a suicidal crisis or who have attempted suicide. The approach to the provision of support is through assertive outreach.

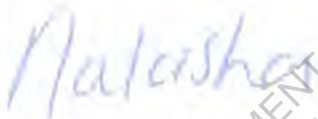
The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Agreement as follows:



8 JUL 2010

**Signed for and on behalf of the  
Commonwealth of Australia by**

**The Honourable Greg Hunt MP**  
Minister for Health of the Commonwealth of Australia



13 APR 2010

**Signed for and on behalf of  
the State of the Northern Territory by**

**The Honourable Natasha Fyles MLA**  
Northern Territory Minister for Health



## **SCHEDULE A**

### **Implementation Plan Commonwealth and the Northern Territory Aftercare following a suicide attempt Bilateral Agreement**

#### **PART 1 — Preliminaries**

1. The arrangements in this Schedule will be implemented by the Parties as outlined in the Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.

#### **PART 2 — Terms of this Schedule**

2. The implementation of this Schedule by the Parties will commence on the date of signing and expire on 30 June 2022.
3. The purpose of this Schedule is to guide implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure and demonstrate the Parties' ability to achieve the outcomes of the Agreement.

#### **PART 3 — Core Characteristics**

##### ***Projects and project information***

4. The Parties agree to the roles and responsibilities outlined in this Schedule for implementing the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.

##### ***Matched funding requirements***

5. In the 2018-19 Federal Budget the Commonwealth committed \$37.6 million over four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) for the Prioritising Mental Health: Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
6. Commonwealth funding for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure will be divided across two fundamental components:
  - a. Funding of up to \$27.1 million will be provided to Primary Health Networks to commission services to be accessed by The Way Back Support Service clients.
  - b. Funding of \$10.5 million will be provided to Beyond Blue to provide national support and oversee the implementation of The Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions, including \$2.5 million to supplement regional service delivery and \$3 million to build capacity within Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks.
7. Commonwealth investment in national support and oversight for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6b) will be administered independent of this Agreement.

8. Commonwealth investment in service delivery for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6a) in the Northern Territory will be dependent on matched financial commitment by the Northern Territory Government.
9. The Commonwealth funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 1.

**Table1: Commonwealth funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory GST Exclusive**

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
<b>Darwin</b>	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$650,000

10. The Northern Territory Government's funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 2. This may include funding committed to The Way Back Support Service prior to entering the Agreement.

**Table 2: Northern Territory Government funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory GST Exclusive**

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
<b>Darwin</b>	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$650,000

#### **Monitoring and reporting**

11. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of the following data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure:
  - a. the number of emergency department presentations for ailments associated with a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
  - b. the number of presentations suitable for referral to The Way Back Support Service;
  - c. the number of presentations for which a Mental State Examination was conducted and identified a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
  - d. any other data as agreed by the Parties.



## **PART 4 — Implementation of The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory**

12. The Parties agree that funding for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure, as specified in Part 3, Item 9 and Item 10, will be provided to the relevant Primary Health Network/s to commission The Way Back Support Service.
13. The Northern Territory Government and the Commonwealth will jointly fund the Northern Territory Primary Health Network to commission a service provider to deliver the Way Back Support Service in Darwin from 2018-19 to 2021-22, with an anticipated annual caseload of up to 180 people.
14. The Darwin Way Back Support Service site will accept referrals from eligible clients presenting at:
  - e. Community Mental Health Services;
  - f. the Royal Darwin Hospital; or
  - g. Other referral pathways agreed by the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth and Beyond Blue.
15. The Way Back Support Service will provide tailored practical support delivered as assertive outreach to eligible individuals for up to three months following a suicide attempt or (where service capacity permits) a suicidal crisis.
16. The Way Back Support Service will be provided by trained non-clinical Support Coordinators, operating under clinical supervision. Support Coordinators will operate with a caseload capacity of 15 cases per full time Support Coordinator.
17. The Parties may agree to fund additional The Way Back Support Service locations in the Northern Territory. Any new locations will be selected in consultation with Beyond Blue and funding arrangements will be negotiated between the Parties.



## Shane Rattenbury MLA

Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability  
Minister for Corrections and Justice Health  
Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety  
Minister for Mental Health

Member for Kurrajong

The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister *Greg*

Minister for Health

3 JUN

Reply by	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call
<input type="checkbox"/> Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent by
Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign	
<input type="checkbox"/> Constituent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Background Information Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to
Comments:	

Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2019 to Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing, offering a Bilateral Agreement to the Australian Capital Territory (the Territory) to support the expansion of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service. This correspondence was forwarded to me for response, in my capacity as the Minister for Mental Health.

I am writing to accept your offer on behalf of the Territory. Please find enclosed a signed copy of both the Bilateral Header Agreement and the Schedule for Commonwealth signature.

I thank you for your support of what is a highly valuable and effective program providing beneficial supports to people following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis that helps them to engage with, and stay connected to, the health and social supports needed to enhance their prospects of recovery.

I look forward to receiving the executed Agreement in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Minister for Mental Health

28 MAY 2019



### ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
Phone +61 2 6205 0005 Email [rattenbury@act.gov.au](mailto:rattenbury@act.gov.au)



@shanerattenburymla



ShaneRattenbury



shanerattenbury

FOI 2347

Page 14 of 50



DOCUMENT 4



## **Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure**

### **Part 1 – Preliminaries and Intent**

1. The Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the states and territories have committed to work together, through the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, to ensure there is consistent and timely follow-up care for people who have attempted suicide.
2. This Bilateral Agreement (the Agreement) recognises the mutual interest and investment of the Commonwealth and the states and territories in ensuring people discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis have access to appropriate follow-up care that supports them to engage with, and stay connected to, the health and social supports needed to enhance their prospects of recovery.
3. The Agreement sets out an agreed approach to progress the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
4. This Agreement is entered into on the understanding that the states and territories will not be disadvantaged or worse off as a result of any subsequent agreement the Commonwealth makes with any other state or territory that could impact on the implementation and financial contributions of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure in the states and territories.

### **Part 2 – Parties and Operation of Agreement**

#### ***Parties to the Agreement***

5. The Agreement is between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

#### ***Commencement, duration and review of the Agreement***

6. The Agreement will commence on the date of signing.
7. The Agreement will expire on 30 June 2022. The Commonwealth and the states and territories will consider arrangements beyond this point.

#### ***Interoperability***

8. The Agreement is to be considered in conjunction with:
  - a. The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan;
  - b. The National Healthcare Agreement 2012; and
  - c. Any relevant state and territory mental health plan.

9. Schedules to this Agreement include, but are not limited to:

- a. Schedule A: Implementation Plan

### **Part 3 — Objectives, Outcomes and Activities**

10. The overarching objective of the Agreement is to support the implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure to:

- a. expand the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions to provide follow-up care for individuals for up to three months after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
- b. reduce suicide re-attempts and deaths for individuals following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
- c. reduce readmissions to hospital emergency departments and enhance the likelihood of recovery for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis.

11. The Parties will contribute to the achievement of these objectives and outcomes through:

- a. demonstrating a financial commitment to support the commissioning of the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions;
- b. supporting an integrated approach to service planning and coordination between Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks to improve service pathways for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
- c. assisting to promote the Way Back Support Service in participating regions, while taking into account other relevant supports available to assist individuals recovering from a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
- d. supporting and contributing to the sharing of relevant health service data to inform monitoring and evaluation of the Way Back Support Service.

12. All activities undertaken under this Agreement should be consistent with the priorities and objectives of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

#### **Data Collection**

13. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure as specified in Schedule A: Implementation Plan.



### ***Areas for Collaboration***

14. The Parties agree to work together, in conjunction with Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks, and other stakeholders, to establish priority locations for the Way Back Support Service.
15. The Parties agree to work together and with Beyond Blue to ensure that Activities funded under this Agreement are consistent with the Way Back Support Service model.

## **Part 4 — Roles and responsibilities**

16. The Parties agree to work together to implement, monitor, refine and evaluate the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure under the Agreement, and agree to share information to assist with planning and policy development, subject to privacy requirements.

## **Part 5 —Monitoring progress and evaluation**

### ***Bilateral Monitoring Progress***

17. Progress will be monitored and reported in accordance with Schedule A: Implementation Plan. This will support early identification and/or resolution of implementation issues; inform refinement of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure; and support evaluation of Agreement activities.
18. Monitoring activities will include:
  - a. updates as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue;
  - b. bilateral officer-level discussions as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues; and
  - c. ad hoc reporting, as agreed by the Parties.

### ***Evaluation***

19. The Commonwealth will fund Beyond Blue to commission an evaluation of the Way Back Support Service for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
  - a. Beyond Blue will consult with the Parties on the evaluation through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue.
  - b. The evaluation will examine the implementation of the Way Back Support Service in preventing suicide and improving care for people who have been discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt.
  - c. The Commonwealth will provide a copy of the evaluation report to jurisdictions.

## ***Risk and Issues Management***

20. The Parties agree that they will continually monitor, review and take necessary action to manage risks over the life of the Agreement. Where agreed by both Parties, relevant Schedules will be updated to reflect any substantive changes or extension to activities to effectively manage identified risks.
21. Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with reasonable prior notice in writing on any implementation issues and risks that may impact on the progress or success of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure activities.
22. If risks eventuate at any time for either party, the Party with primary responsibility for the risk will work with the other Party and Beyond Blue to develop agreed mitigation proposals.

## **Part 6 — Stakeholders**

23. To support appropriate linkages and align Agreement activities with existing programs and services, the Parties will communicate as appropriate with key stakeholders, as identified by the Parties, throughout the life of the Agreement, including through existing communication channels, mechanisms and forums.

## **Part 7 — Communications**

24. The Parties agree to a collaborative and cooperative approach to external communications consistent with the aims of this Agreement.
25. The Parties agree to consult with one another and Beyond Blue about any significant publications or announcements, including media releases, relating to this Agreement to ensure that each party has sufficient time to participate in those opportunities.
26. If there is any doubt about the significance of a proposed publication or announcement, the Parties agree to liaise with each other and Beyond Blue to determine whether the other Party or Beyond Blue wish to be involved.
27. The Parties will use all reasonable endeavours to respond to each other in respect of urgent publications or announcements in a timely manner.

## **Part 8 — Governance of the Agreement**

### ***Disputes under the Agreement***

28. Any Party may give notice in writing to the other Party of a dispute under the Agreement.
29. The Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute at officer-level in the first instance.
30. If the issue cannot be resolved at officer-level, it may be escalated to the relevant executive officers and Ministers.

### ***Variation of the Agreement***

31. The Agreement and its Schedules may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by the relevant Parties.

### ***Enforceability of the Agreement***

32. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of the Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, this does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the Agreement.

### ***Termination of the Agreement***

33. The Parties may withdraw from the Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other Parties and Beyond Blue.
34. Following notification of a Party's intention to withdraw from the Agreement, the terms of the withdrawal, including the date on which the Party will cease to be a Party, and any legislative changes and other arrangements that may be necessary as a consequence of the withdrawal, will be negotiated in good faith and agreed between the Parties, on a basis which aims to ensure continuity of support for people in receipt of supports funded through the Agreement.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## Definitions

35. The following definitions are applicable throughout the Agreement and all Schedules to the Agreement.

Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure	The Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is an initiative announced in the 2018-19 Federal Budget to support the roll out of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions.
Local Hospital Network (LHNs)	<p>A Local Hospital Network is an organisation that provides public hospital services. A Local Hospital Network can contain one or more hospitals and is usually defined as a business group, geographical area or community. Every Australian public hospital is part of a Local Hospital Network.</p> <p>In some jurisdictions, a Local Hospital Network may also include community health services.</p>
Primary Health Networks (PHNs)	Primary Health Networks are independent organisations established to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Primary Health Networks have skills-based boards, which are informed by clinical councils and community advisory committees.
Schedule A: Implementation Plan	Schedule A is an Implementation Plan that includes details about service delivery and financial information specific to each jurisdiction.
Suicidal Crisis	A suicidal crisis is a situation in which an individual is believed to be in imminent danger due to contemplating or planning to take their own life.
The Way Back Support Service	The Way Back Support Service is a non-clinical support service focussed on providing practical psychosocial support to people experiencing a suicidal crisis or who have attempted suicide. The approach to the provision of support is through assertive outreach.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Agreement as follows:



**Signed for and on behalf of the  
Commonwealth of Australia by**

4 JUL 2019

**The Honourable Greg Hunt MP**  
Minister for Health of the Commonwealth of Australia



**Signed for and on behalf of  
the State of the Australian Capital Territory by**

**Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA**  
ACT Minister for Mental Health

## **SCHEDULE A**

### **Implementation Plan Commonwealth and the Australian Capital Territory Aftercare following a suicide attempt Bilateral Agreement**

#### **PART 1 — Preliminaries**

1. The arrangements in this Schedule will be implemented by the Parties as outlined in the Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.

#### **PART 2 — Terms of this Schedule**

2. The Implementation of this Schedule by the Parties will commence as soon as the ACT Health Minister signs and the Commonwealth countersigns and expires on 30 June 2022.
3. The purpose of this Schedule is to guide implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure and demonstrate the Parties' ability to achieve the outcomes of the Agreement.

#### **PART 3 — Core Characteristics**

##### ***Projects and project information***

4. The Parties agree to the roles and responsibilities outlined in this Schedule for implementing the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.

##### ***Matched funding requirements***

5. In the 2018-19 Federal Budget the Commonwealth committed \$37.6 million over four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) for the Prioritising Mental Health: Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
6. Commonwealth funding for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure will be divided across two fundamental components:
  - a. Funding of up to \$27.1 million will be provided to Primary Health Networks to commission services to be accessed by The Way Back Support Service clients.
  - b. Funding of \$10.5 million will be provided to Beyond Blue to provide national support and oversee the implementation of The Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions, including \$2.5 million to supplement regional service delivery and \$3 million to build capacity within Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks.
7. Commonwealth investment in national support and oversight for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6b) will be administered independent of this Agreement.



8. Commonwealth investment in service delivery for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6a) in the Australian Capital Territory will be dependent on matched financial commitment by the Australian Capital Territory Government.
9. The Commonwealth funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 1.

**Table1: Commonwealth funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Australian Capital Territory GST Exclusive**

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Canberra	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$900,00

10. The Australian Capital Territory Government's funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 2. This may include funding committed to The Way Back Support Service prior to entering the Agreement.

**Table 2: The Australian Capital Territory Government funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Australian Capital Territory GST Exclusive**

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Canberra	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$900,000

#### **Monitoring and reporting**

11. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of the following data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure:
  - a. the number of emergency department presentations for ailments associated with a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
  - b. the number of presentations suitable for referral to the Way Back Support Service;
  - c. the number of presentations for which a Mental State Examination was conducted and identified a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
  - d. any other data as agreed by the Parties.

## **PART 4 — Implementation of The Way Back Support Service in the Australian Capital Territory**

12. The Parties agree that funding for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure, as specified in Part 3, Item 9 and Item 10, will be provided to the relevant Primary Health Network/s to commission The Way Back Support Service.
13. The Australian Capital Territory Government and the Commonwealth will jointly fund the Australian Capital Territory Primary Health Network to commission a service provider to deliver the Way Back Support Service in Canberra from 2019-20 to 2021-22, with an anticipated annual caseload of up to 290 people.
14. The Canberra Way Back Support Service site will accept referrals from eligible clients presenting at a:
  - a. Community Mental Health Services;
  - b. the Canberra and Calvary Hospitals; or
  - c. Other referral pathways agreed by the Australian Capital Territory Government, the Commonwealth, the Australian Capital Territory Primary Health Network and Beyond Blue.
15. The Way Back Support Service will provide tailored practical support delivered as assertive outreach to eligible individuals for up to three months following a suicide attempt or (where service capacity permits) a suicidal crisis.
16. The Way Back Support Service will be provided by trained non-clinical Support Coordinators, operating under clinical supervision. Support Coordinators will operate with a caseload capacity of 15 cases per full time Support Coordinator.



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the**  
**Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MS19-000806

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability  
Minister for Corrections and Justice Health  
Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety  
Minister for Mental Health  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

8 JUL 2019

Dear Minister

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the signed and executed Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Government and the Australian Capital Territory for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.

I appreciate the Australian Capital Territory Government's commitment and financial investment in the measure to support people that have attempted suicide or in suicidal crisis. The Australian Government recognises the difficulties faced by Australians with mental illness and is committed to developing a more effective mental health system that improves the lives of all Australians.

I look forward to working together to deliver the aftercare measure to support the expansion of Beyond Blue's The Way Back Support Service.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

Encl (1)





**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the**  
**Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MS19-000806

The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
Minister for Health  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801

8 JUL 2019

Dear Attorney-General

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the signed and executed Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Government and the Northern Territory for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.

I appreciate the Northern Territory Government's commitment and financial investment in the measure to support people that have attempted suicide or in suicidal crisis. The Australian Government recognises the difficulties faced by Australians with mental illness and is committed to developing a more effective mental health system that improves the lives of all Australians.

I look forward to working together to deliver the aftercare measure to support the expansion of Beyond Blue's The Way Back Support Service.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

Encl (1)



**To: Minister Hunt**

**Subject: FORMAL OFFER OF THE WAY BACK SUPPORT SERVICE  
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY AND THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Critical date: 2 April 2019 - To enable Bilateral Agreements to be finalised and initial sites  
established within 2018-19**

**Recommendations:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1. Approve</b> the Bilateral Header Agreement and Schedules for the <i>Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure</i> , with the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Attachment A).                     | <b>1. Approved/Not approved/Please discuss</b> |
| <b>2. Sign</b> the Letters of Offer to Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory Ministers for the Bilateral Header Agreement and Schedules for the <i>Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure</i> (Attachment B). | <b>2. Signed/Not signed/ Please discuss</b>    |
| <b>3. Agree</b> to the establishment of the proposed Tranche 2 Gippsland site for the <i>Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure</i> .   | <b>3. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss</b>     |

Signature .....

Date: 1 / 4 / 19

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Emma Gleeson	Assistant Secretary, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Branch	Ph: (02) 6289 5327 s22
Clearance Officer:	Caroline Edwards	Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy and Primary Care Group	Ph: (02) 6289 1235 s22

**Issues:**

- On 12 November 2018, you agreed to 16 site locations (Tranche 1) for the expansion of Beyond Blue's The Way Back Support Service (Way Back) including writing to the state and territory Health Ministers to commence negotiations. You also agreed to formalise arrangements via Bilateral Agreements with the state and territories with final versions subject to your approval MS18-002188 (Attachment C).
- Funding for Beyond Blue's the Way Back, to prevent suicide after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis, is contingent on state and territory investment.



3. During negotiations with Victoria, a site location for Gippsland region was identified as an additional priority, with the Department seeking your approval for this location. This will be the first identified Tranche 2 location.
4. Following completion of negotiations with states and territories, a separate submission will be prepared for remaining Tranche 2 locations, with funding commencing in 2019-20.

#### State and territory investment

5. The Department, with the assistance of Beyond Blue, is continuing to negotiate with state and territory governments regarding co-funding of the Way Back.
6. Negotiations with the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have now been finalised and they are now looking to execute formal commitments.
7. The Bilateral Agreements for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory are at Attachment A and should you approve are ready for your signature.
8. Formal letters of offer to the Territory Health Ministers are at also at Attachment B.
9. In order to avoid delays in the commencement of services in the territories, the Bilateral Agreements for the remaining states will be sought in subsequent submissions.

#### Proposed site locations – Tranche 2

10. In negotiating with Victoria, a site in Gippsland was identified a priority due to the Victorian Government's previous commitment to the expansion of the Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement (HOPE) program.
11. Gippsland was previously identified by Victoria, with support from their Local Health Services and Gippsland Primary Health Network (PHN). Victoria would like to confirm their commitment to the site.
12. Should you agree to the Gippsland location, the draft Victorian Bilateral Agreement will be amended to include Gippsland with funding commencing 2019-20.

#### **Background:**

- The Way Back Support Service is a model of service delivery that provides follow-up care to individuals for up to three months following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis by providing non-clinical, assertive outreach, follow-up care and practical support to individuals.
- The 2018-19 Budget measure *Prioritising mental health – aftercare following a suicide attempt* comprises:
  - \$10.5 million for Beyond Blue to provide national support and oversee the implementation of the Way Back Support Service; and
  - \$27.1 million for PHNs to commission the Way Back Support Service, contingent on co-contributions from states and territories.
- Beyond Blue will contribute an additional \$5 million to support the measure.

#### **Attachments:**

- A: Bilateral Agreements – A1. Australian Capital Territory and A2. Northern Territory  
 B: Letters of Offer to Territory Health Ministers.  
 C: Ministerial Submission MS18-002188.

#### **Relevance to Election Commitments / Budget Measures:**

The roll out of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service was announced in the 2018-19 Budget. This measure is consistent with the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan which commits governments to provide timely follow-up support to people affected by suicide.

**Consultations:** The Department has consulted with Beyond Blue on this submission.

**Impact on Rural and Regional Australians:** The proposed Way Back Support Service sites include regional areas of Australia.



## **Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure**

### **Part 1 — Preliminaries and Intent**

1. The Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the states and territories have committed to work together, through the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, to ensure there is consistent and timely follow-up care for people who have attempted suicide.
2. This Bilateral Agreement (the Agreement) recognises the mutual interest and investment of the Commonwealth and the states and territories in ensuring people discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis have access to appropriate follow-up care that supports them to engage with, and stay connected to, the health and social supports needed to enhance their prospects of recovery.
3. The Agreement sets out an agreed approach to progress the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
4. This Agreement is entered into on the understanding that the states and territories will not be disadvantaged or worse off as a result of any subsequent agreement the Commonwealth makes with any other state or territory that could impact on the implementation and financial contributions of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure in the states and territories.

### **Part 2 — Parties and Operation of Agreement**

#### ***Parties to the Agreement***

5. The Agreement is between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

#### ***Commencement, duration and review of the Agreement***

6. The Agreement will commence on the date of signing.
7. The Agreement will expire on 30 June 2022. The Commonwealth and the states and territories will consider arrangements beyond this point.

#### ***Interoperability***

8. The Agreement is to be considered in conjunction with:
  - a. The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan;
  - b. The National Healthcare Agreement 2012; and
  - c. Any relevant state and territory mental health plan.

9. Schedules to this Agreement include, but are not limited to:

a. Schedule A: Implementation Plan

### **Part 3 — Objectives, Outcomes and Activities**

10. The overarching objective of the Agreement is to support the implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure to:

- a. expand the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions to provide follow-up care for individuals for up to three months after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
- b. reduce suicide re-attempts and deaths for individuals following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
- c. reduce readmissions to hospital emergency departments and enhance the likelihood of recovery for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis.

11. The Parties will contribute to the achievement of these objectives and outcomes through:

- a. demonstrating a financial commitment to support the commissioning of the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions;
- b. supporting an integrated approach to service planning and coordination between Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks to improve service pathways for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
- c. assisting to promote the Way Back Support Service in participating regions, while taking into account other relevant supports available to assist individuals recovering from a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
- d. supporting and contributing to the sharing of relevant health service data to inform monitoring and evaluation of the Way Back Support Service.

12. All activities undertaken under this Agreement should be consistent with the priorities and objectives of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

#### **Data Collection**

13. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure as specified in Schedule A: Implementation Plan.



### ***Areas for Collaboration***

14. The Parties agree to work together, in conjunction with Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks, and other stakeholders, to establish priority locations for the Way Back Support Service.
15. The Parties agree to work together and with Beyond Blue to ensure that Activities funded under this Agreement are consistent with the Way Back Support Service model.

## **Part 4 — Roles and responsibilities**

16. The Parties agree to work together to implement, monitor, refine and evaluate the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure under the Agreement, and agree to share information to assist with planning and policy development, subject to privacy requirements.

## **Part 5 — Monitoring progress and evaluation**

### ***Bilateral Monitoring Progress***

17. Progress will be monitored and reported in accordance with Schedule A: Implementation Plan. This will support early identification and/or resolution of implementation issues; inform refinement of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure; and support evaluation of Agreement activities.
18. Monitoring activities will include:
  - a. updates as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue;
  - b. bilateral officer-level discussions as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues; and
  - c. ad hoc reporting, as agreed by the Parties.

### ***Evaluation***

19. The Commonwealth will fund Beyond Blue to commission an evaluation of the Way Back Support Service for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
  - a. Beyond Blue will consult with the Parties on the evaluation through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue.
  - b. The evaluation will examine the implementation of the Way Back Support Service in preventing suicide and improving care for people who have been discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt.
  - c. The Commonwealth will provide a copy of the evaluation report to jurisdictions.



### ***Risk and Issues Management***

20. The Parties agree that they will continually monitor, review and take necessary action to manage risks over the life of the Agreement. Where agreed by both Parties, relevant Schedules will be updated to reflect any substantive changes or extension to activities to effectively manage identified risks.
21. Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with reasonable prior notice in writing on any implementation issues and risks that may impact on the progress or success of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure activities.
22. If risks eventuate at any time for either party, the Party with primary responsibility for the risk will work with the other Party and Beyond Blue to develop agreed mitigation proposals.

### **Part 6 — Stakeholders**

23. To support appropriate linkages and align Agreement activities with existing programs and services, the Parties will communicate as appropriate with key stakeholders, as identified by the Parties, throughout the life of the Agreement, including through existing communication channels, mechanisms and forums.

### **Part 7 — Communications**

24. The Parties agree to a collaborative and cooperative approach to external communications consistent with the aims of this Agreement.
25. The Parties agree to consult with one another and Beyond Blue about any significant publications or announcements, including media releases, relating to this Agreement to ensure that each party has sufficient time to participate in those opportunities.
26. If there is any doubt about the significance of a proposed publication or announcement, the Parties agree to liaise with each other and Beyond Blue to determine whether the other Party or Beyond Blue wish to be involved.
27. The Parties will use all reasonable endeavours to respond to each other in respect of urgent publications or announcements in a timely manner.

### **Part 8 — Governance of the Agreement**

#### ***Disputes under the Agreement***

28. Any Party may give notice in writing to the other Party of a dispute under the Agreement.
29. The Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute at officer-level in the first instance.
30. If the issue cannot be resolved at officer-level, it may be escalated to the relevant executive officers and Ministers.

### ***Variation of the Agreement***

31. The Agreement and its Schedules may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by the relevant Parties.

### ***Enforceability of the Agreement***

32. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of the Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, this does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the Agreement.

### ***Termination of the Agreement***

33. The Parties may withdraw from the Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other Parties and Beyond Blue.
34. Following notification of a Party's intention to withdraw from the Agreement, the terms of the withdrawal, including the date on which the Party will cease to be a Party, and any legislative changes and other arrangements that may be necessary as a consequence of the withdrawal, will be negotiated in good faith and agreed between the Parties, on a basis which aims to ensure continuity of support for people in receipt of supports funded through the Agreement.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## Definitions

35. The following definitions are applicable throughout the Agreement and all Schedules to the Agreement.

Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure	The Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is an initiative announced in the 2018-19 Federal Budget to support the roll out of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions.
Local Hospital Network (LHNs)	<p>A Local Hospital Network is an organisation that provides public hospital services. A Local Hospital Network can contain one or more hospitals and is usually defined as a business group, geographical area or community. Every Australian public hospital is part of a Local Hospital Network.</p> <p>In some jurisdictions, a Local Hospital Network may also include community health services.</p>
Primary Health Networks (PHNs)	Primary Health Networks are independent organisations established to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Primary Health Networks have skills-based boards, which are informed by clinical councils and community advisory committees.
Schedule A: Implementation Plan	Schedule A is an Implementation Plan that includes details about service delivery and financial information specific to each jurisdiction.
Suicidal Crisis	A suicidal crisis is a situation in which an individual is believed to be in imminent danger due to contemplating or planning to take their own life.
The Way Back Support Service	The Way Back Support Service is a non-clinical support service focussed on providing practical psychosocial support to people experiencing a suicidal crisis or who have attempted suicide. The approach to the provision of support is through assertive outreach.



The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Agreement as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of the  
Commonwealth of Australia by**

**The Honourable Greg Hunt MP**  
Minister for Health of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Signed for and on behalf of  
the State of the Australian Capital Territory by**

**The Honourable Meegan Fitzharris MLA**  
ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing

## **SCHEDULE A**

### **Implementation Plan Commonwealth and the Australian Capital Territory Aftercare following a suicide attempt Bilateral Agreement**

#### **PART 1 — Preliminaries**

1. The arrangements in this Schedule will be implemented by the Parties as outlined in the Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.

#### **PART 2 — Terms of this Schedule**

2. The implementation of this Schedule by the Parties will commence as soon as the ACT Health Minister signs and the Commonwealth countersigns and expires on 30 June 2022.
3. The purpose of this Schedule is to guide implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure and demonstrate the Parties' ability to achieve the outcomes of the Agreement.

#### **PART 3 — Core Characteristics**

##### ***Projects and project information***

4. The Parties agree to the roles and responsibilities outlined in this Schedule for implementing the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.

##### ***Matched funding requirements***

5. In the 2018-19 Federal Budget the Commonwealth committed \$37.6 million over four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) for the Prioritising Mental Health: Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
6. Commonwealth funding for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure will be divided across two fundamental components:
  - a. Funding of up to \$27.1 million will be provided to Primary Health Networks to commission services to be accessed by The Way Back Support Service clients.
  - b. Funding of \$10.5 million will be provided to Beyond Blue to provide national support and oversee the implementation of The Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions, including \$2.5 million to supplement regional service delivery and \$3 million to build capacity within Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks.
7. Commonwealth investment in national support and oversight for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6b) will be administered independent of this Agreement.

8. Commonwealth investment in service delivery for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6a) in the Australian Capital Territory will be dependent on matched financial commitment by the Australian Capital Territory Government.
9. The Commonwealth funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 1.

**Table1: Commonwealth funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Australian Capital Territory GST Exclusive**

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Canberra	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$900,00

10. The Australian Capital Territory Government's funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 2. This may include funding committed to The Way Back Support Service prior to entering the Agreement.

**Table 2: The Australian Capital Territory Government funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Australian Capital Territory GST Exclusive**

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Canberra	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$900,000

#### **Monitoring and reporting**

11. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of the following data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure:
  - a. the number of emergency department presentations for ailments associated with a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
  - b. the number of presentations suitable for referral to the Way Back Support Service;
  - c. the number of presentations for which a Mental State Examination was conducted and identified a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
  - d. any other data as agreed by the Parties.



## **PART 4 — Implementation of The Way Back Support Service in the Australian Capital Territory**

12. The Parties agree that funding for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure, as specified in Part 3, Item 9 and Item 10, will be provided to the relevant Primary Health Network/s to commission The Way Back Support Service.
13. The Australian Capital Territory Government and the Commonwealth will jointly fund the Australian Capital Territory Primary Health Network to commission a service provider to deliver the Way Back Support Service in Canberra from 2019-20 to 2021-22, with an anticipated annual caseload of up to 290 people.
14. The Canberra Way Back Support Service site will accept referrals from eligible clients presenting at a:
  - a. Community Mental Health Services;
  - b. the Canberra and Calvary Hospitals; or
  - c. Other referral pathways agreed by the Australian Capital Territory Government, the Commonwealth, the Australian Capital Territory Primary Health Network and Beyond Blue.
15. The Way Back Support Service will provide tailored practical support delivered as assertive outreach to eligible individuals for up to three months following a suicide attempt or (where service capacity permits) a suicidal crisis.
16. The Way Back Support Service will be provided by trained non-clinical Support Coordinators, operating under clinical supervision. Support Coordinators will operate with a caseload capacity of 15 cases per full time Support Coordinator.

# **Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure**

## **Part 1 – Preliminaries and Intent**

1. The Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the states and territories have committed to work together, through the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, to ensure there is consistent and timely follow-up care for people who have attempted suicide.
2. This Bilateral Agreement (the Agreement) recognises the mutual interest and investment of the Commonwealth and the states and territories in ensuring people discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis have access to appropriate follow-up care that supports them to engage with, and stay connected to, the health and social supports needed to enhance their prospects of recovery.
3. The Agreement sets out an agreed approach to progress the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
4. This Agreement is entered into on the understanding that the states and territories will not be disadvantaged or worse off as a result of any subsequent agreement the Commonwealth makes with any other state or territory that could impact on the implementation and financial contributions of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure in the states and territories.

## **Part 2 – Parties and Operation of Agreement**

### ***Parties to the Agreement***

5. The Agreement is between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

### ***Commencement, duration and review of the Agreement***

6. The Agreement will commence on the date of signing.
7. The Agreement will expire on 30 June 2022. The Commonwealth and the states and territories will consider arrangements beyond this point.

### ***Interoperability***

8. The Agreement is to be considered in conjunction with:
  - a. The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan;
  - b. The National Healthcare Agreement 2012; and
  - c. Any relevant state and territory mental health plans.

9. Schedules to this Agreement include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Schedule A: Implementation Plan

### **Part 3 – Objectives, Outcomes and Activities**

10. The overarching objective of the Agreement is to support the Implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure to:
  - a. expand the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions to provide follow-up care for individuals for up to three months after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
  - b. reduce suicide re-attempts and deaths for individuals following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
  - c. reduce readmissions to hospital emergency departments and enhance the likelihood of recovery for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis.
11. The Parties will contribute to the achievement of these objectives and outcomes through:
  - a. demonstrating a financial commitment to support the commissioning of the Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions;
  - b. supporting an integrated approach to service planning and coordination between Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks to improve service pathways for individuals after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
  - c. assisting to promote the Way Back Support Service in participating regions, while taking into account other relevant supports available to assist individuals recovering from a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
  - d. supporting and contributing to the sharing of relevant health service data to inform monitoring and evaluation of the Way Back Support Service.
12. All activities undertaken under this Agreement should be consistent with the priorities and objectives of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

#### **Data Collection**

13. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure as specified in Schedule A: Implementation Plan.



### ***Areas for Collaboration***

14. The Parties agree to work together, in conjunction with Beyond Blue, Primary Health Networks, and other stakeholders, to establish priority locations for the Way Back Support Service.
15. The Parties agree to work together and with Beyond Blue to ensure that Activities funded under this Agreement are consistent with the Way Back Support Service model.

## **Part 4 — Roles and responsibilities**

16. The Parties agree to work together to implement, monitor, refine and evaluate the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure under the Agreement, and agree to share information to assist with planning and policy development, subject to privacy requirements.

## **Part 5 —Monitoring progress and evaluation**

### ***Bilateral Monitoring Progress***

17. Progress will be monitored and reported in accordance with Schedule A: Implementation Plan. This will support early identification and/or resolution of implementation issues; inform refinement of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure; and support evaluation of Agreement activities.
18. Monitoring activities will include:
  - a. updates as required on implementation progress and emerging risks or issues through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue;
  - b. bilateral officer-level discussions as required on Implementation progress and emerging risks or issues; and
  - c. ad hoc reporting, as agreed by the Parties.

### ***Evaluation***

19. The Commonwealth will fund Beyond Blue to commission an evaluation of the Way Back Support Service for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
  - a. Beyond Blue will consult with the Parties on the evaluation through relevant governance committees convened by Beyond Blue.
  - b. The evaluation will examine the implementation of the Way Back Support Service in preventing suicide and improving care for people who have been discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt.
  - c. The Commonwealth will provide a copy of the evaluation report to jurisdictions.

### ***Risk and Issues Management***

20. The Parties agree that they will continually monitor, review and take necessary action to manage risks over the life of the Agreement. Where agreed by both Parties, relevant Schedules will be updated to reflect any substantive changes or extension to activities to effectively manage identified risks.
21. Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with reasonable prior notice in writing on any implementation issues and risks that may impact on the progress or success of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure activities.
22. If risks eventuate at any time for either party, the Party with primary responsibility for the risk will work with the other Party and Beyond Blue to develop agreed mitigation proposals.

### **Part 6 — Stakeholders**

23. To support appropriate linkages and align Agreement activities with existing programs and services, the Parties will communicate as appropriate with key stakeholders, as identified by the Parties, throughout the life of the Agreement, including through existing communication channels, mechanisms and forums.

### **Part 7 — Communications**

24. The Parties agree to a collaborative and cooperative approach to external communications consistent with the aims of this Agreement.
25. The Parties agree to consult with one another and Beyond Blue about any significant publications or announcements, including media releases, relating to this Agreement to ensure that each party has sufficient time to participate in those opportunities.
26. If there is any doubt about the significance of a proposed publication or announcement, the Parties agree to liaise with each other and Beyond Blue to determine whether the other Party or Beyond Blue wish to be involved.
27. The Parties will use all reasonable endeavours to respond to each other in respect of urgent publications or announcements in a timely manner.

### **Part 8 — Governance of the Agreement**

#### ***Disputes under the Agreement***

28. Any Party may give notice in writing to the other Party of a dispute under the Agreement.
29. The Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute at officer-level in the first instance.
30. If the issue cannot be resolved at officer-level, it may be escalated to the relevant executive officers and Ministers.

### ***Variation of the Agreement***

31. The Agreement and its Schedules may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by the relevant Parties.

### ***Enforceability of the Agreement***

32. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of the Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, this does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the Agreement.

### ***Termination of the Agreement***

33. The Parties may withdraw from the Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other Parties and Beyond Blue.
34. Following notification of a Party's intention to withdraw from the Agreement, the terms of the withdrawal, including the date on which the Party will cease to be a Party, and any legislative changes and other arrangements that may be necessary as a consequence of the withdrawal, will be negotiated in good faith and agreed between the Parties, on a basis which aims to ensure continuity of support for people in receipt of supports funded through the Agreement.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## Definitions

35. The following definitions are applicable throughout the Agreement and all Schedules to the Agreement.

Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure	The Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is an initiative announced in the 2018-19 Federal Budget to support the roll out of Beyond Blue's Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions.
Local Hospital Network (LHNs)	<p>A Local Hospital Network is an organisation that provides public hospital services. A Local Hospital Network can contain one or more hospitals and is usually defined as a business group, geographical area or community. Every Australian public hospital is part of a Local Hospital Network.</p> <p>In some jurisdictions, a Local Hospital Network may also include community health services.</p>
Primary Health Networks (PHNs)	Primary Health Networks are independent organisations established to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Primary Health Networks have skills-based boards, which are informed by clinical councils and community advisory committees.
Schedule A: Implementation Plan	Schedule A is an Implementation Plan that includes details about service delivery and financial information specific to each jurisdiction.
Suicidal Crisis	A suicidal crisis is a situation in which an individual is believed to be in imminent danger due to contemplating or planning to take their own life.
The Way Back Support Service	The Way Back Support Service is a non-clinical support service focussed on providing practical psychosocial support to people experiencing a suicidal crisis or who have attempted suicide. The approach to the provision of support is through assertive outreach.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Agreement as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of the  
Commonwealth of Australia by**

**The Honourable Greg Hunt MP**  
Minister for Health of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Signed for and on behalf of  
the State of the Northern Territory by**

**The Honourable Natasha Fyles MLA**  
Northern Territory Minister for Health

## **SCHEDULE A**

### **Implementation Plan Commonwealth and the Northern Territory Aftercare following a suicide attempt Bilateral Agreement**

#### **PART 1 — Preliminaries**

1. The arrangements in this Schedule will be implemented by the Parties as outlined in the Header Agreement for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.

#### **PART 2 — Terms of this Schedule**

2. The implementation of this Schedule by the Parties will commence on the date of signing and expire on 30 June 2022.
3. The purpose of this Schedule is to guide implementation of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure and demonstrate the Parties' ability to achieve the outcomes of the Agreement.

#### **PART 3 — Core Characteristics**

##### ***Projects and project information***

4. The Parties agree to the roles and responsibilities outlined in this Schedule for implementing the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.

##### ***Matched funding requirements***

5. In the 2018-19 Federal Budget the Commonwealth committed \$37.6 million over four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) for the Prioritising Mental Health: Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure.
6. Commonwealth funding for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure will be divided across two fundamental components:
  - a. Funding of up to \$27.1 million will be provided to Primary Health Networks to commission services to be accessed by The Way Back Support Service clients.
  - b. Funding of \$10.5 million will be provided to Beyond Blue to provide national support and oversee the implementation of The Way Back Support Service in selected Primary Health Network regions, including \$2.5 million to supplement regional service delivery and \$3 million to build capacity within Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks.
7. Commonwealth investment in national support and oversight for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6b) will be administered independent of this Agreement.



8. Commonwealth investment in service delivery for the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure (Part 3, Item 6a) in the Northern Territory will be dependent on matched financial commitment by the Northern Territory Government.
9. The Commonwealth funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 1.

**Table1: Commonwealth funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory GST Exclusive**

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
<b>Darwin</b>	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$650,000

10. The Northern Territory Government's funding commitment for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure is outlined in Table 2. This may include funding committed to The Way Back Support Service prior to entering the Agreement.

**Table 2: Northern Territory Government funding commitment for The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory GST Exclusive**

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
<b>Darwin</b>	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$650,000

#### **Monitoring and reporting**

11. The Parties agree to support the collection and provision of the following data on the implementation and progress of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure:
  - a. the number of emergency department presentations for ailments associated with a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis;
  - b. the number of presentations suitable for referral to The Way Back Support Service;
  - c. the number of presentations for which a Mental State Examination was conducted and identified a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis; and
  - d. any other data as agreed by the Parties.

## **PART 4 — Implementation of The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory**

12. The Parties agree that funding for the service delivery component of the Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure, as specified in Part 3, Item 9 and Item 10, will be provided to the relevant Primary Health Network/s to commission The Way Back Support Service.
13. The Northern Territory Government and the Commonwealth will jointly fund the Northern Territory Primary Health Network to commission a service provider to deliver the Way Back Support Service in Darwin from 2018-19 to 2021-22, with an anticipated annual caseload of up to 180 people.
14. The Darwin Way Back Support Service site will accept referrals from eligible clients presenting at:
  - e. Community Mental Health Services;
  - f. the Royal Darwin Hospital; or
  - g. Other referral pathways agreed by the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth and Beyond Blue.
15. The Way Back Support Service will provide tailored practical support delivered as assertive outreach to eligible individuals for up to three months following a suicide attempt or (where service capacity permits) a suicidal crisis.
16. The Way Back Support Service will be provided by trained non-clinical Support Coordinators, operating under clinical supervision. Support Coordinators will operate with a caseload capacity of 15 cases per full time Support Coordinator.
17. The Parties may agree to fund additional The Way Back Support Service locations in the Northern Territory. Any new locations will be selected in consultation with Beyond Blue and funding arrangements will be negotiated between the Parties.



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**

Ref No: MS19-000541

01 APR 2019

Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601


Dear Minister 

I am writing to offer you a Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Australian Capital Territory for the *Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure* to support the expansion of Beyond Blue's The Way Back Support Service in selected locations within your jurisdiction.

The Way Back Support Service is a model of service delivery that provides outreach, follow-up care and practical support to individuals following a suicide attempt. The model provides support to people during the three months after a suicide attempt or crisis.

My Department has negotiated with Beyond Blue and your Department the implementation of the measure with comments incorporated into the final documents. In order to reflect the requirements within each state and territory, a Header Agreement was drafted to capture overarching responsibilities, while the Schedule provides specific information on the implementation such as funding, site locations and local services.

Should you agree, please return a signed copy of both the Bilateral Header Agreement and Schedule at your earliest convenience. This Agreement will commence as soon as both parties have agreed to and signed the documentation.

Yours sincerely 

Greg Hunt





**The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health**

Ref No: MS19-000541

01 APR 2019

The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
Minister for Health  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Attorney-General

I am writing to offer you a Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory for the *Aftercare following a suicide attempt measure* to support the expansion of Beyond Blue's The Way Back Support Service in selected locations within your jurisdiction.

The Way Back Support Service is a model of service delivery that provides outreach, follow-up care and practical support to individuals following a suicide attempt. The model provides support to people during the three months after a suicide attempt or crisis.

My Department has negotiated with Beyond Blue and your Department the implementation of the measure with comments incorporated into the final documents. In order to reflect the requirements within each state and territory, a Header Agreement was drafted to capture overarching responsibilities, while the Schedule provides specific information on the implementation such as funding, site locations and local services.

Should you agree, please return a signed copy of both the Bilateral Header Agreement and Schedule at your earliest convenience. This Agreement will commence as soon as both parties have agreed to and signed the documentation.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Hunt