



Prioritising Mental Health – enhancing suicide prevention

The Australian Government is investing significantly in suicide prevention in response to early recommendations from the National Suicide Prevention Adviser. This investment focuses on using ‘lived experience’ to intervene early, concentrate on specific at-risk groups, strengthen families and communities, and ensure all government services are working to reduce suicide. It includes:

- \$13.4 million to extend the National Suicide Prevention Trials for a further year and enhancement of the evaluation of the various suicide prevention trial activities across the country.
- \$7.0 million to expand Beyond Blue’s Way Back Program which provides assertive outreach and practical aftercare to people following a suicidal crisis or attempt.
- \$10 million for additional postvention support for families and carers who have been bereaved by suicide through the StandBy Support After Suicide Program.
- \$4.6 million for enhanced youth support and peer support delivered by ReachOut, the Raise Foundation, and the headspace Schools Suicide Prevention Activities Program.
- \$4.4 million to extend support of the headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation to deliver suicide prevention training and education sessions in schools.
- \$21.7 million to extend the headspace Pilbara regional trial, establish headspace centres in Port Hedland and Karratha and upgrades to headspace services in Roma and Emerald.
- \$2 million for further crisis support through Lifeline and Kids Helpline and earlier roll out of the Government’s adult mental health centres.

Additional \$2.1 million will also be provided to continue the work of the Prevention Hub – a collaboration of the Black Dog Institute and Everymind – to deliver a research program that targets people at greater risk of mental health conditions and suicide.

Why is this important?

The Australian Government has made mental health and suicide prevention a national priority. In 2018, 3046 Australians tragically lost their lives to suicide. Every life lost has a devastating impact on families, friends and communities.

The Government is implementing the largest expansion of the headspace network to date, with the current network of 124 services to grow to 153 services nationally by 2022. Over the next four years from 2020–21, the Government is investing \$630.4 million in the national headspace network. This includes \$534.4 million for the establishment of new services and ongoing service delivery at existing services and \$96 million to address demand and reduce wait times to access headspace services.

These measures enhance early intervention, aftercare, postvention, peer support and the provision of vital services in regional areas. They support the Government's ongoing work to transform the national approach to suicide prevention.

Who will benefit?

Young people, their families and those who support them including schools, communities, the mental health workforce, frontline responders, service providers and peak bodies will benefit from this funding boost.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$65.2 million from 2020–21 to 2021–22.