



## Prioritising Mental Health and Suicide Prevention – Mental health support for the Devonport community

The Australian Government is providing \$800,000 in specialised counselling and mental health support for the community of Devonport, Tasmania, following the tragic accident at Hillcrest Primary School.

The Australian Government has expressed the collective sadness of the Australian people and is committed to supporting the people of Devonport as they deal with the grief and trauma of the events.

The Government is providing \$800,000 over two years towards mental health supports for people impacted, particularly the families and carers of the students, the emergency first responders called to assist and their families, and local school children.

This includes \$550,000 for community supports, comprised of:

- \$200,000 for trauma counselling services in the community
- \$200,000 to support the local headspace to ensure its staff have trauma care training and to expand support available to young people
- \$100,000 in return to school supports, including teacher and staff training and counselling, and
- \$50,000 for community mental health and wellbeing grants.

In addition, \$250,000 will support first responders and their families, including:

- \$150,000 in additional trauma counselling for those involved in responding to these events and their families, and
- \$100,000 in trauma informed care and psychological first aid training for first responder organisations to assist ongoing recovery.

**Why is this important?**

The community of Devonport continues to mourn the loss of six of its children and deal with the lasting impact of the accident which took their lives.

The Australian Government is seeking to ensure that appropriate care is available to those most impacted by the tragedy, including the families and carers of students and the first responders involved. The funding will ensure that essential additional local mental health services are in place to meet immediate needs, and that training and community grants are available to support longer term community recovery.

**Who will benefit?**

The families and carers bereaved, first responders impacted and their families, local school students, and the broader Devonport community will benefit through access to specialised mental health supports, trauma care, and longer term wellbeing initiatives.

**How much will this cost?**

The Australian Government is providing \$800,000 over two years, 2021–22 to 2022–23.