



Prioritising Mental Health – National Suicide Information Initiative

The Government will establish a new national system for collection and coordination of information on suicide and self-harm. By continuously bringing together regional and demographically-specific information on the incidence of suicide and suicidal behaviour, this system will ensure that governments and communities will be able to rapidly deliver the right type of services when and where they are needed most in order to prevent suicides and suicide clusters.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the National Mental Health Commission and the Department of Health will work together to link existing data collections – such as from ambulance crews and hospital emergency departments – to deliver a complete up-to-date national view of the prevalence of suicide and self-harm.

Why is this important?

Suicide remains the leading cause of death among 15–44 year olds in Australia. Every life lost to suicide is a national tragedy. However, addressing suicide is challenging as the incidence of suicides fluctuates from year to year and region to region. Having more accurate and timely regional and demographically-specific information on the incidence of suicide and suicidal behaviour will help governments and communities respond more rapidly to emerging crises. This will help reduce the number of people lost to suicide each year.

Who will benefit?

People affected by suicide and self-harm will benefit because improved data will help to better identify groups and areas which are at increased risk of suicide.

Better data will also help mental health and suicide prevention stakeholders – including governments and government departments, service commissioners, service providers, and universities and other research institutes – in providing appropriate services, making policy decisions, and researching suicide and self-harm.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$15 million from 2019–20 to 2021–22.