

Suicide Prevention CEO consults community sector in Darwin, Alice Springs and Adelaide

19-21 April 2017: Suicide Prevention Australia this week hosts a series of opportunities for the community sector and members of the public who have been personally impacted by suicide to contribute to the 2025 Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention.

Suicide is a complex social problem however too often it is simplified to being the result of mental illness. We must address the complexity of suicide as a serious public health issue and invest in implementation of a [national suicide prevention plan](#). This national plan must be mandated by a National Suicide Prevention Act and success measured by a National Office for Suicide Prevention.

Suicide Prevention Australia CEO Sue Murray said, “The development of this plan – through genuine co-design with those personally impacted by suicide and those working in suicide prevention – is about providing a strong blueprint for stopping this heartbreaking issue,” Ms Murray said.

“We know that a national suicide prevention plan, with clear outcomes and milestones, has the best potential to save lives. To do so, it needs continued national leadership, a focus on quality through evaluation and accountability, as well as proper investment that stays true to the current focus on regional delivery and person-centred care.”

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Overview of the consultation process: In February 2017, a National Coalition for Suicide Prevention workshop, convened by Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA), initiated discussion on a 2025 framework for suicide prevention. This builds on the Government commitment in the Fifth National Mental Health Plan Consultation Draft 2016, “developing a whole-of-government national suicide prevention plan”. [Read the SPA submission re feedback on the Fifth Plan.](#)

The discussion at the workshop outlined a proposed strategic framework to lead to a reduction in the national suicide rate in Australia. SPA is now developing this further through a [series of state-wide community sector consultations](#) over the next three months. Consultation will involve the National Coalition for Suicide Prevention, SPA organisational and associate members, leading associations in mental health and suicide prevention, SPA’s national Lived Experience Network, the Federal Department of Health, Primary Health Networks, and leading researchers in the field.

We will also be sending out an online survey in April/May 2017 as part of the consultation process.

About Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA): SPA provides national leadership for the suicide prevention sector in Australia. SPA works collaboratively to develop a community that knows how to ask for help and how to give help.

As the lead agency of the National Suicide Prevention Coalition, we build and facilitate partnerships to change attitudes and harness the voices of professionals and those with lived experience of suicide attempts and suicide. www.suicidepreventionaust.org

[Click here](#) for a comprehensive list of crisis and support information.