



Suicide Prevention
Australia



ANNUAL REPORT / YEAR IN REVIEW

2018-2019

Message from the CEO and Chair

On reflection the past 12 months has seen remarkable progress relating to government funding for suicide prevention, political engagement and leadership. So if we were to use two words to capture 2018-19, they'd be 'change' and 'momentum'. Not only has Suicide Prevention Australia experienced internal reshaping, renewed focus and strategic growth but the political landscape has also shifted. There is no doubt that suicide prevention has gained political momentum and we are determined to harness this appetite for action.

We can never underestimate the impact that every life lost to suicide has on family, friends, workplaces and the broader community. Over 10 million Australian adults are estimated to know someone who has died by suicide, and 1 in 2 young people are impacted by suicide by the time they turn 25. The latest Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows that around 8 lives are lost per day to suicide. We have a big task ahead but with perseverance and collaboration we can make a difference to the number of lives lost to suicide.

One of the most significant achievements or milestones included our focus on strengthening key government and sector relationships, laying the foundations for the launch of Suicide Prevention Australia's 2019 National Policy Platform. After significant consultation with members and the sector in May 2019, we launched our National Policy Platform. The three policy pillars included; leadership (whole-of-government approach), reliable data and workforce strategy. Governments are listening to what we have to say and there is evidence of a shift towards a cross-portfolio approach to suicide prevention, which aligns with our call for a whole-of-government approach to suicide prevention.

It was also heartening to see suicide prevention get the attention it deserved during the 2019 Federal Budget with a \$461 million investment across both youth mental health and suicide prevention strategy. It was also good to see that the announcements focused on both system architecture and service delivery for suicide prevention. One of our policy priorities include improved and coordinated data collection and retrieval. Therefore, the \$15 million investment in a national information service is a significant development. It's also important to acknowledge the bi-partisan support for suicide prevention both at a federal and state level. A united front is definitely a recipe for change and progress.

Our Annual Operating Plan 2018-19 aligns our work to deliver national leadership for the meaningful reduction of suicide in Australia under four Strategic Pillars:

- **Policy and Advocacy**
- **Quality and Innovation**
- **Member and Community Engagement**
- **Sustainable Foundations**

This framework underpinned our work during the year to support and collaborate with members, and advocate on behalf of the sector and all Australians.

We exist to support and strengthen our members in the delivery of services and programs for suicide prevention. In saying that, we are proud of the progress each and every one of our members has made over the year. The collective achievements of our 260+ members drives change and saves lives.

Bringing members together is very important. One initiative that does this is the inaugural Suicide Prevention Australia State Committee meetings in South Australia and Queensland. This 12-month pilot program is being trialed in both states. The Committees are focused on sharing suicide prevention information, facilitating discussions of state-specific suicide prevention service delivery and policy matters; and acting as a conduit to Suicide Prevention Australia about current and emerging suicide prevention issues. Our vision is to expand this program across the country to capture valuable insights from our membership network to help inform our suicide prevention strategy.

We also launched The Suicide Prevention Hub; best practice programs and services and committed \$2.3 million in funding from the National Suicide Prevention Research Fund. We are proud to have achieved widespread sector recognition as the manager of the National Suicide Prevention Research Fund. In addition, we enhanced our membership structure and offering which has been received well with membership growth reaching over 260.

The new website was launched and it now presents a robust collection of important sector information and progress reports.

Based in Melbourne, the National Suicide Prevention Conference 2019 attracted more than 650 delegates. Former Prime Minister, Hon. Julia Gillard AC delivered the Diego de Leo Opening Address looking at why prevention, early intervention and new models of care can reduce the pressure on Australia's mental health system. There were 130 presentations and 34 bursary recipients. The delegate feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Delivering national leadership in suicide prevention is a team effort. Both of us would like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to our work in 2018-19; Board Directors, our leadership team and employees, our members, our Patron and everyone who volunteered, fundraised, donated, or supported us in other ways. A special mention and thank you to outgoing Chair, Matthew Tukaki for his guidance and leadership.

In reporting our performance in 2018-19 we'd like to acknowledge all those who lost their lives or were impacted by suicide during that time. It's for you that we come to work each day, resolute in our purpose and inspired by our vision for a world without suicide.

We look forward to continuing to work together in 2019-20 towards our shared vision.




Nieves Murray - CEO
Suicide Prevention Australia




Angela Emslie
BOARD CHAIR
Suicide Prevention Australia

Year at a glance



Quality and Innovation

14 research grants

Suicide Prevention Research Fund

Research Advisory Committee

12 members

Research grants database – more than **350 active members**

Best Practice

Register - listing of 7 programs

Evaluation

Recommendations on The Hub implemented

Quality

Improvement Program delivering quality and effectiveness in suicide prevention programs

Sustainable Foundations

Operating revenue

grew **4.6%**

Research Fund grants and scholarships

= **\$2.3 million**

22% net assets growth

\$315,000

= Anytime Fitness and Regional Australia Bank

Policy and Advocacy

Inaugural State Committee meetings in **South Australia and Queensland**



Published our **National Policy Platform** and influenced **Government to accept its goals**

- Policy pillars
- 1 Leadership**
 - 2 Reliable Data**
 - 3 Workforce**

Submissions

- Productivity Commission Review of the Mental Health system**
- Victorian Royal Commission into the Mental Health system**

2019 budget - Federal Government committed

\$500 million

for youth mental health and suicide prevention

Member and Community Engagement

61% increase membership



National Suicide Prevention Conference 2019

650+ delegates

260 + members



Increased membership in all States and Territories

Average reach per article

584,000

90%

membership retention

584 media placements



Website Redesign

1.6 million reach annually

1.5 million reach annually

40K+ Followers LinkedIn & Twitter combined

Australian Institute of Company Directors Governance Standards



AICD Governance Principles	Current Compliance Status
<p>Principle 1: Purpose and strategy The organisation has a clear purpose and a strategy which aligns its activities to its purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Prevention Australia's purpose is clearly articulated in its Constitution. - Suicide Prevention Australia has a Strategic Plan which is reviewed at least annually at a Board and leadership Strategic Planning day. - Suicide Prevention Australia also has an Annual Operating Plan which is driven by the Strategic Plan. - The Board reviews Suicide Prevention Australia's performance against the Key Performance Indicators in the Annual Operating Plan each quarter. - Suicide Prevention Australia produces Annual Reports and publishes them on its web site.
<p>Principle 2: Roles and responsibilities There is clarity about the roles, responsibilities and relationships of the board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles and responsibilities of Directors are articulated in the Constitution and Board charter. - New Directors are given an induction pack and encouraged to meet with senior management and staff as part of their induction. - There is a Governance Committee to provide guidance, as needed, on roles and responsibilities. In addition, there is a policy on Delegations of authority.
<p>Principle 3: Board composition The board's structure and composition enable it to fulfil its role effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Director appointment process is defined in the Constitution including member nomination of Directors, a majority of independent Directors (including an independent Chair), ballot procedures and maximum terms for Directors. - Directors are assessed against a skills and experience matrix and Board diversity (gender, age, culture) is considered in Director appointments. - Director succession is discussed by the Board. - There is a Governance Committee to provide guidance, as needed, on Board composition.
<p>Principle 4: Board effectiveness The board is run effectively and its performance is periodically evaluated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Prevention Australia holds Board meetings at least quarterly, and they are usually face to face. - The CEO reports monthly to the Board. - The Director induction pack as stated above in Principle 2. - The Board Charter provides for regular review of Board, Chair and CEO performance.
<p>Principle 5: Risk management Board decision making is informed by an understanding of risk and how it is managed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Prevention Australia has a risk register which is reviewed quarterly by the Audit & Risk Committee and considered by the Board at its meetings. Risks are assessed regularly by the leadership team.
<p>Principle 6: Performance The organisation uses its resources appropriately and evaluates its performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is monthly financial and non-financial reporting to the Board. - The Audit & Risk Committee evaluates the financial performance of Suicide Prevention Australia. - Annual Operating Plan KPIs are monitored quarterly by the Board.
<p>Principle 7: Accountability and transparency The board demonstrates accountability by providing information to stakeholders about the organisation and its performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Prevention Australia produces regular member alerts and briefings. - Suicide Prevention Australia holds an AGM where its Annual Report is presented to members. - Members can nominate to the Board in accordance with the rules detailed in the constitution. - Suicide Prevention Australia's Strategic Plan aligns with its three organisational objects. - Suicide Prevention Australia has a complaints policy and process, including a whistleblower policy. Suicide Prevention Australia has a range of other policies and delegations which are regularly reviewed by the Governance Committee and the Board.
<p>Principle 8: Stakeholder engagement There is meaningful engagement of stakeholders and their interests are understood and considered by the board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members are invited to attend, and may ask questions of the Board, at Suicide Prevention Australia's Annual General Meeting. - Suicide Prevention Australia holds regular meetings with members and welcomes feedback. - There is member involvement in the annual Strategic Planning day. - Suicide Prevention Australia produces regular member alerts and briefings. - There is member involvement in and membership of State advisory committees (currently under trial in two States). - Suicide Prevention Australia conducts regular member surveys.
<p>Principle 9: Conduct and compliance The expectations of behaviour for the people involved in the organisation are clear and understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Prevention Australia has a Board charter, policies and procedures. - Staff have position descriptions and undergo regular performance reviews. - There is a Conflict of Interest register and conflicts are declared at the start of each Board meeting.
<p>Principle 10: Culture The board models and works to instil a culture that supports the organisation's purpose and strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board articulates the culture it wants for Suicide Prevention Australia to support its mission and appoints the CEO who in turn develops and implements this culture under guidance from the Board. - Board diversity is considered in Director appointments, refer to Principle 3 above.

Our Financials

AICD Governance Principles	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	4,982,879	2,574,000
Administration expenses	(301,298)	(175,864)
Amortisation and depreciation expenses	(65,739)	(56,277)
Employee benefits expense	(1,430,997)	(1,129,966)
Loss on disposal of assets	(6,902)	-
Program expenses	(2,760,392)	(223,301)
Surplus before income tax	417,551	988,592
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus for the year	417,551	988,592
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	417,551	988,592
Current assets	9,087,315	5,715,494
Non-current assets	90,368	114,491
Total assets	9,177,683	5,829,985
Current liabilities	5,986,532	3,898,455
Non-current liabilities	869,258	27,188
Total liabilities	6,855,790	3,925,643
Net assets	2,321,893	1,904,342
Total equity	2,321,893	1,904,342



Suicide Prevention
Australia

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For general enquiries

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www.suicidepreventionaust.org

There are crisis services available 24/7 if you or someone you know is in distress

Lifeline: 13 11 14
www.lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Acknowledgement Statement

Suicide Prevention Australia remembers those we have lost to suicide and acknowledges the suffering suicide brings when it touches our lives. We are brought together by experience and are unified by hope. Suicide Prevention Australia acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders past, present and emerging.