SUICIDE PREVENTION AUSTRALIA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF SUICIDE PREVENTION 2020

PRINCIPLES

1. **Every suicide death comes at immense human, social and economic cost** and we need an inclusive, whole-of-community effort to prevent suicides from occurring.

2. We believe **suicide needs to be addressed in an integrated way that encompasses mental health, social, economic and community factors**.

3. Treating suicide holistically means **Governments across Australia must work together as one, pooling funding and policy effort** so that we have a consistent nationwide approach.

4. **We need to adopt a three pronged approach on suicide prevention**:

   a. **Suicide prevention should be approached at the population level** through strategies to improve equity and address the social determinants that increase suicide risk

   b. **Suicide prevention should target communities**, especially through strategies designed to increase social inclusion and reduce risk for priority populations

   c. **Suicide prevention should target the individual**, through early intervention, prevention, response and aftercare interventions that go beyond a mental-health based approach and provide a continuum of care to every person at risk

5. The **suicide prevention strategies, services and programs we prioritise for investment should be grounded on a strong evidence base** that proves their efficacy.

6. **We should trial new approaches in a controlled manner within specific communities or systems** so we can test their effectiveness before we implement them at scale.

7. **People with lived experience offer an essential, qualitative dimension that must be integrated at every stage of suicide prevention policy**

8. **Language matters**, and while we'll highlight the need for urgent action on suicide we'll communicate in a way that does no harm.