



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

Midwest to benefit from \$3 million to tackle suicide

8 February 2017

The Midwest will benefit from \$3 million over three years to deliver a model of suicide prevention in the region.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt announced the Midwest as one of four new suicide prevention trial sites, taking the total number of trial sites nationally to 12.

Mr Hunt said preventing suicide is a complex problem and a one-size-fits-all strategy for dealing with the challenge may not be the best approach.

He said the trial is not about routine ongoing services - it's about learning how best to prevent suicide at a local level how we can provide the best support to individuals at risk.

The objective of the suicide prevention trials is to find the most effective approaches to suicide prevention for at risk-populations and share this knowledge across the whole of Australia.

The Midwest was selected as a trial site because of a high suicide death rate, that has continued in the area over an extended period.

Statistics reveal the Midwest has a five-year suicide death rate of 18.2 per 100,000 people, compared to the five-year national average of 11.4 per 100,000.

WA Primary Health Alliance, which operates Country WA Primary Health Network (PHN), will be responsible for delivering the suicide prevention model in the Midwest.

Country WA PHN regional manager Jodie Green said the Midwest is well positioned to provide leadership in suicide prevention.

“Current partnerships will enable the rapid engagement of key stakeholders and will ensure a collaborative approach which addresses concerns about duplication of effort and lack of coordination,” Ms Green said.



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Ms Green said the PHN's strong relationship with the WA Mental Health Commission and WA Country Health Service provided the opportunity to work across communities of the Midwest and prioritise responses and drive service design to address a number of related local issues.

Country WA PHN will continue to engage and collaborate with Aboriginal communities, service providers and existing consultative structures in the Midwest to ensure the right cultural context for the suicide prevention trial site.

The funding for the trial site is from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

ENDS

For more information contact Brian Oliver, Communications and Marketing Manager

Tel: 0435 229 317 **Email:** brian.oliver@wapha.org.au