



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

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Local community will be key to designing suicide prevention services in Wheatbelt

The WA Primary Health Alliance will begin consulting with the local Wheatbelt community to co-design suicide prevention services for the region, Chief Executive Officer Learne Durrington said today.

Ms Durrington, who made the comments ahead of a Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention forum on suicide prevention in Narrogin, said WAPHA was taking a new approach to the commissioning of services throughout the state.

“We want to work with local people and leverage their knowledge to build partnerships and develop innovative solutions,” she said.

“We know that the Wheatbelt, and Narrogin in particular, has had serious issues with suicide and suicidal behaviour over the past decade and the only way we are going to change things is by working together to find solutions.

“This can not be done from an office in Perth. It must be done in partnership with the community and with other service providers.”

Ms Durrington said a comprehensive needs assessment had been undertaken for the region and had shown that the Wheatbelt had rates higher than the state average for death due to suicide and self-inflicted injuries.

“We have also been working with mental health consultancy ConNetica and the Western Australian Mental Health Commission to map the mental health and alcohol and other drug services throughout the state,” she said.

“In addition to all that background work, we have also been consulting with clinical experts in the regions, as well as local health advisory groups to gain an accurate picture of which services are out there, what the needs are and how we can start addressing some of the gaps.

“We hope to begin commissioning suicide prevention, mental health and alcohol and other drug services in the Wheatbelt within the coming nine – 12 months.

“We will also be commissioning after hours primary health care services and aged care services for vulnerable and at-risk populations.”

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