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Media Release

Country WA PHN to lead suicide prevention trial site in Kimberley

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Country WA Primary Health Network (PHN) welcomes the Commonwealth Government's decision to establish a suicide prevention trial site in the Kimberley.

Federal Health Minister Susan Ley said the Kimberley trial site will help deliver a model of suicide prevention that can be tailored specifically to the unique and often culturally-sensitive requirements of remote and indigenous communities.

Country WA PHN general manager Linda Richardson said over the past 12 months the PHN had carried out extensive community and service consultation around suicide prevention activities.

Ms Richardson said while the consultation highlighted existing significant investment in the number of services and programs provided, what was missing was effective coordination across services and collaboration between services.

"Country WA PHN is well positioned to provide leadership in suicide prevention within the Kimberley region," Ms Richardson said.

"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 Richardson 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 Kimberley 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 Kimberley to ensure the right cultural context for the suicide prevention trial site.

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