



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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

Media Release

Report sets blueprint to improve suicide-prevention services and programmes for Indigenous people

15 November 2016

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) welcomes the release of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) report, *Solutions that Work: What the Evidence and Our People Tell Us*.

Released by the Federal Government, the ATSISPEP report sets out a new blueprint to improve suicide-prevention services and programmes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on the principle of prioritising community-led, culturally-appropriate services.

WAPHA acting chief executive officer Bernadette Kenny said the report revealed alarming statistics on Indigenous suicides rates across the country compared to non-Indigenous suicides rates.

“Sadly, WA has the highest rate of Indigenous suicides compared to other states and territories, with 35.2 suicides per 100,000 people,” Ms Kenny said.

In the report’s 17 recommendations, it highlighted the role for Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to implement the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy.

WA’s three PHNs – Perth North, Perth South and Country WA – are operated by WAPHA.

Perth South PHN and Country WA PHN have been selected by the Federal Government as suicide prevention trial sites.

Ms Kenny said the report supports WAPHA’s commitment to working with communities to prioritise locally relevant responses in the design of suicide prevention services.

“The PHNs are committed to the development of community led and culturally appropriate services and it is important that we hear the voices of those communities most impacted,” Ms Kenny said.

Ms Kenny said WAPHA also supported other findings of the report including;

- a planned and evidence based approach
- an Indigenous, community wide approach to primary prevention
- the report’s recommendation that there is no standardised approach across differing communities – rather approaches that reflect local needs and are place-based



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Ms Kenny said WAPHA will prioritise capacity and capability building within local communities and empower people to help reduce suicide rates.

ENDS

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) report, *Solutions that Work: What the Evidence and Our People Tell Us* is available at the [Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet website](#).

For more information:

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