



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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

Media Release

Leadership and collaboration critical to addressing Aboriginal youth suicide

23 November 2016

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) welcomes WA Parliament's Education and Health Standing Committee inquiry in to Aboriginal youth suicide in remote communities.

The report calls on governments, agencies and communities to work together to contribute to build resilience in WA's young Aboriginal people.

The committee's report, *Learnings from the message stick: The report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas*, contains 44 recommendations and highlights a lack of leadership across agencies and organisations in the response to improving the wellbeing of young Aboriginal people.

WAPHA chief executive officer Learne Durrington said meaningful collaboration across all levels of governments, agencies, peak bodies and service providers was critical to ensure positive outcomes could be realised for Aboriginal people.

"As highlighted in the report, for over 15 years recommendations have emphasised the importance of leadership, collaboration and coordination," Ms Durrington said.

"Over the past 18 months WAPHA has demonstrated our commitment to work positively and collaboratively with local communities, peak bodies and agencies to address the biggest challenges facing our State – including Aboriginal youth suicide.

"WAPHA will continue to adopt the Collective Impact approach which recognises no one organisation can solve the most challenging problems."

Ms Durrington said WAPHA, which provided a submission to the Inquiry, would continue to work in partnership with the WA Mental Health Commission in its approach to Aboriginal suicide prevention, which was one of the report's 44 recommendations.

"WAPHA is committed to commissioning evidence-based, locally relevant mental health services to support Aboriginal communities across WA, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups," Ms Durrington said.

ENDS

- To read the WA Parliament's Legislative Assembly's Education and Health Standing Committee report, [click here](#)
- To read WAPHA's submission to the Inquiry, [click here](#)



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For more information:

Brian Oliver

Communications and Marketing Manager

WA Primary Health Alliance

Tel: 08 6272 4913

Email: brian.oliver@wapha.org.au