



KIMBERLEY

Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial

Community Fact Sheet

Why a Suicide Prevention Trial in the Kimberley?

The Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial is helping to develop a model of suicide prevention that meets the unique and culturally-sensitive needs of the region's remote Aboriginal communities.

The Australian Government chose the Kimberley as one of 12 national Suicide Prevention Trial Sites. This is due to the tragic over-representation of suicide in Aboriginal communities such as the Kimberley, where the age-adjusted rate of suicide is more than six times the national average.

Who is the Trial focusing on?

The Aboriginal community, with a specific focus on young people.

Which communities are involved?

Broome, Bidadanga, Dampier Peninsula, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Wyndham and Balgo.

How is the Trial being run and by whom?

The Trial is guided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP).

A strong cultural framework underpins all its activities. Community decision making on suicide prevention strategies in local communities is a priority.

The Trial is community driven through representation on the Working Group which is co-chaired by the Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt and Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) Deputy CEO, Rob McPhee.

It is led by WA Primary Health Alliance, Country WA PHN, in partnership with KAMS, who are coordinating on-the-ground activities.



A workshop with members of the Working Group

How much is being spent and how?

The Australian Government has allocated \$4 million to the Trial, most of which will be used for community activities identified in community action plans. Other activities include community consultations, cultural mapping, training for health professionals, awareness campaigns, data collection, workforce and an evaluation.

How long is the Trial and how will it be evaluated?

It began in mid-2017 and ends in June 2020. Planning was completed in December 2017 and implementation began in January 2018. The University of Melbourne is evaluating the Trial as part of a national evaluation.

Who else is involved?

Community groups, federal, state and local governments, GPs, health professionals and community health workers, all of whom are essential to tackling suicide in the region.

What has happened or is underway?

- Consulted and collaborated with community, government, health, social services and education sectors.
- Appointed the KAMS project trial coordinator to oversee community consultations and action plans.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding between WA Primary Health Alliance and WA Country Health Service to ensure collaboration, coordination and optimisation of results in suicide prevention and postvention.
- Appointed Prof. Pat Dudgeon, UWA Centre for Best Practice in Aboriginal Suicide Prevention, as the Trial's data group chair.
- Finalised an operational plan.



Bidyadanga community consultation

- Appointed the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre to map cultural activities across the region to inform the Trial's multi-agency approach to providing tools and systems to address mental health and suicide prevention.
- Completed a campaign during the end of year holiday period to help people who might be struggling to access support.

- Training for GPs and other health providers in suicide prevention and postvention.
- Recruiting community champions to support communities to develop and implement suicide prevention action plans.



Broome community action group

What is planned?

- Progress the actions above.
- Issue grants to allow the community action plans to be implemented.
- Run a campaign to raise awareness of suicide prevention and encourage help seeking behaviour.
- Support grass roots promotion of suicide prevention and postvention.
- Investigate ways to improve suicide support and response including:
 - 'No wrong door' approach to services
 - Capacity building training for families, young people and community
 - Safe shelters for young people.
- Final evaluation.

More information

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