



### Community Liaison Officer appointments



Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) have recently been appointed to lead the development and implementation of action plans in some of the nine communities taking part in the Trial.

The CLOs are working alongside community members to identify, implement and evaluate suicide prevention activities, drive the community action plans and support families and other community members.

Broome Community Liaison Officer, Michael Hadji Ali, said he is passionate about suicide prevention and knows only too well the ripple effects it has across family, friends and community.

One of his goals is to make his community more aware of the underlying issues and what people go through.

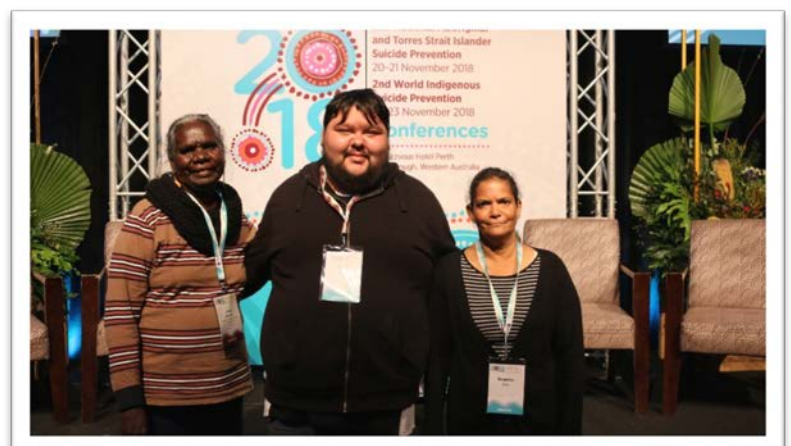
Michael said, "I'd like to see a community that is comfortable talking about suicide and raise awareness of how we can make positive life choices."

### National Indigenous Suicide Conference

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference held in Perth was an opportunity to showcase the work being done as part of the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial, with a presentation delivered by KAMS Deputy CEO, Rob McPhee.

Four of the recently appointed community liaison officers attended, being Jean O'Reeri from Wyndham, Trent Ozies from Derby, Rowena Cox from Halls Creek and Corina Jadai from Bidyadanga.

According to Trent, it was a wonderful opportunity to promote self-learning and get advice from our elders who are handing down the information to us.



Trent said, "It's all about sharing what's working in other areas and asking if it could also work in our area."

### Three community action plans approved

Three community action plans have been approved, reinforcing the strong community-led nature of the Trial. This means Broome, Derby and Bidyadanga communities can now progress their plans to strengthen suicide prevention awareness and action.

The Broome project Wirriya Liyan (feeling happy) was developed over three consultation sessions with more than 60 Aboriginal people. It reflects a sense of deep sadness within the community that suicide is seen as an option for too many people.

The aim is to identify Broome-based Aboriginal people with lived experience of suicide, and life promotion and culture strengthening knowledge, stories and skills that they can share with the community.

The program will connect young people to culture and have pronounced cultural elements focused on promoting positive identity, enhanced social and emotional wellbeing, and sharing and recognising the healing journeys that exist within the Broome community.

Participants will be invited to share their skills, stories and experiences during visits to schools, youth centres and other youth-friendly venues.



### Workshop identifies priorities



The Trial's Working Group recently held a workshop that identified three priorities which will shape the Trial's future direction.

They are:

1. No wrong door to access treatment and support services
2. Fostering and supporting safe places for youth "community safe houses"
3. Building capacity and awareness of social and emotional wellbeing / mental health awareness within the community and among health practitioners.

The Working Group will approach these project by project to develop solutions that will complement the grass roots work being done at a community level.

## **Awareness campaign**

A group of young people recently met to brainstorm ideas for a Kimberley-wide campaign for 2019 that will positively role model ways to stay strong and well, including the importance of community, country and culture.

The reference group will continue to shape the campaign's development to ensure the final message gets through to the region's young people.

The campaign will also aim to decrease the stigma and shame associated with talking about your problems, including suicidal thoughts, and encourage people to seek help. Importantly, it will promote community ownership of and confidence to tackle this serious problem.

## **Contact**

To find out more about the Trial, or to subscribe to further updates, please contact: [kaspt@wapha.org.au](mailto:kaspt@wapha.org.au)