

# Media Release



**KIMBERLEY**  
Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial

06 September 2019

## Start the talk, take the walk against suicide

**A walk against suicide will be held in Broome for World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September 2019, to show unity in the community, acknowledge lost loved ones and to raise awareness of mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services.**

The walk begins at the Broome Cemetery at 2:30pm, where flowers will be handed out to family and friends who have been impacted by suicide, to place on the graves of those who have passed.

“We are taking a stand against suicide and walking from the cemetery as a sentimental way of acknowledging the people that we have lost and their families,” Michael Haji Ali, Broome Community Liaison Officer for the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial said.

“They are not just case numbers to us in the community, they are people that we loved.”

The walk continues through the town and ends at Town Beach where there will be a fire pit for healing and a smoking ceremony for cleansing. There will be a range of activities for attendees including:

- Local agency providers
  - o headspace Broome
  - o Men’s Outreach Service Kimberley
  - o Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services
  - o Boab Health Services
- Guest speakers
  - o Shire of Broome President Cr Harold Tracey
  - o Micklo McKenzie from the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Social and Emotional Wellbeing Unit.
- Live Entertainment
  - o Mexicans
  - o Young Lyrical Instincts
  - o Peter Cullen
  - o Face Painting

The event is open to the whole community and counsellors will be available across the day to assist anyone who may be affected by the nature of the event.

“We want people to know that we are putting unity back into this community and showing our support.” Michael Haji Ali said.

This event is an initiative by the Wirriya Liyan Broome Suicide Prevention Project as part of the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial, for World Suicide Prevention Day.

Every year, suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. [World Suicide Prevention Day](#) is an opportunity to shine a light on the universal challenge of suicide prevention by raising awareness and encouraging conversation.

### **Helplines**

If you find yourself in an emergency, or at immediate risk of harm to yourself or others, please contact emergency services on 000. Other 24-hour services include: Lifeline on 13 11 14 and Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467.

ENDS

### **Media Contact**

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### **About the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial**

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 Aboriginal communities. The Trial aims to identify the best approaches to doing this, which will inform a wider national approach.

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.

The Trial is guided by the recommendations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) and covers the entire Kimberley region, with the following nine areas chosen to develop community-led responses: Broome, Bidadanga, Dampier Peninsula, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Wyndham and Balgo.

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 Australians 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.

The four-year Trial comprises a planning and implementation phase and its findings and outcomes will be evaluated by the Australian Government, as part of a national evaluation.

# Start the Talk, Take the Walk Against Suicide!

Join us to take a stand against suicide in a walk from Broome Cemetery to Town Beach

Tuesday, 10th September 2019  
**2.30pm-7pm**

**2.30pm** - Gather at the front of the cemetery

Flowers will be handed out for family and friends who have been impacted by suicide to put on their loved one's grave.

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**Please bring a hat and wear appropriate shoes**

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**Our MC's for the evening**

Michael Albert,  
Jacob Smith / Corpus

**Guest speakers**

Harold Tracey  
Micklo McKenzie, KAMS SEWB  
Local agencies

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**cultural and healing activities**

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## **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

Mexicans | Young Lyrical Instincts | Peter Cullen

Due to the nature of this event, counsellors will be available assist those who may be affected.



The Trial is led by WA Primary Health Alliance in partnership with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services. For more information, email [kaspt@wapha.org.au](mailto:kaspt@wapha.org.au)