

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

24 August 2020



## KIMBERLEY

Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 36 community members and leaders, health and social service organisations, Federal and State Government representatives met virtually to support suicide prevention as a priority in the Kimberley.

Despite the recent impact of COVID-19, the work of the Trial continues from strength to strength. The Hon. Ken Wyatt, AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians and Chair of the Working Group, acknowledged the challenges that COVID-19 will have on mental health, and re-affirmed the importance of a seamless approach and continuing to work towards the Trial objectives.

The Trial's Working Group further built on this by presenting and endorsing the plan for the final transition year 2020/2021.

The transition year will align to five key pillars;

- Strengthening Culture
- Empowered Young Leaders
- Place Based Action - Community Liaison Officers
- Service Coordination and Enhancement
- Communication and Education

### Transition

An important part of the final year of the Trial will be to cement the work of the Trial in longer-term sustainable programs. Excitingly, two key elements of the five pillars, and of the Trial to-date, have been supported to continue.

- The National Indigenous Australians Agency provided funding to support an increase to the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) roles to allow for one male and one female CLO to be employed in seven Kimberley communities until 30 June 2020. These positions will continue to be resourced under the trial in 2020-21 to allow officers to provide critical support to their community and drive local programs to improve social and emotional wellbeing.
- The Empowered Young Leaders program has been adopted by the multi-award winning suicide prevention project Alive and Kicking Goals. Excitingly, Bianca Graham, a key driver behind the Empowered Young Leaders from the outset, has been employed as a coordinator for the program. The Empowered Young Leaders group will continue to engage with young people, to ensure their voices are heard.

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### Community Projects

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, work has continued in the community. Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) have rapidly adapted to support the social and emotional wellbeing of their communities safely during this time, and have been a vital resource. This includes input from a number of CLOs to help translate COVID-19 information to local languages and providing extensive SEWB phone support to fellow community members.

Other local community highlights include;

### Balgo

The Balgo Suicide Prevention Music Program has continued, and 30 life-affirming songs in local languages have been produced and distributed across the community. The music is a valuable contribution that will have a legacy beyond the life of the Trial and has strengthened traditional language practice. You can listen to and share the songs [here](#).

### Bidyadanga

Self-care home kits were provided to families in isolation and a Bidyadanga Restoring Self Facebook page and quarantine cookbook were developed. These resources supported the social and emotional wellbeing of the community during a particularly challenging time and are helping to keep people connected and share important messages.

### Broome

Prior to COVID-19, the Wirriya Liyan working group expanded on the success of their Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) basketball team initiative to the wider West Kimberley Basketball Association. The Broome Men's Basketball Team also attended Country Week, kitted out in Broome Suicide Prevention uniforms. During COVID-19, Wirriya Liyan also developed a number of SEWB resources for the community and regularly share life promotion messages on Goolarri Radio, Facebook, and at community events.

### Dampier Peninsula

Community Action Project Plans for three large communities in the Dampier Peninsula have been endorsed. The Beagle Bay Working Group has also been established and continues to undertake projects in its community.

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### Derby

The Liyan Natural Helpers gatekeeper training was trialled with community members in Derby, a culturally appropriate and informed workshop designed by and for Kimberley people. This will increase support in the community for those at-risk and provide a greater understanding of social and emotional wellbeing. CLO Trent Ozies also provided extensive crisis support during COVID-19, directing families in need to the appropriate services.

### Fitzroy Crossing

Planning is currently underway and, once it is safe to do so, the Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation Ngangkari traditional healers will undertake a knowledge sharing workshop in Fitzroy Crossing. This will apply ancient cultural knowledge and wisdom to address trauma and to regain and regather wellbeing, integrating traditional healing into mental health service delivery models. Additionally, prior to COVID-19 the Fitzroy Crossing “Be the best you can be (Mad Bastards) healing program” engaged 21 men and women.

### Halls Creek

Thirty-six Halls Creek community members participated in Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Training, building the capacity of community members to respond to mental health concerns. A Jaru elders meeting was also held with Jaru women who took mothers and their children out bush to practice traditional dances and cultural healing. During COVID-19 an isolation gardening project was developed at Milba station to share SEWB Stay Connected messages and self-care home packs were circulated.

### Kununurra

A Kununurra Toolkit Workshop was held for Aboriginal youth, providing a platform for young people to share their views on the recently implemented Deliberate Self Harm and Suicidal Behaviour Toolkit, and to engage them in the Empowered Young Leaders East Kimberley network.

### Wyndham

Significant meetings were held connecting the local youth group, Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service, and local police, with men involved in trial activities. Their conversations have continued through fortnightly community yarning groups and these important relationships continue to grow. Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training was also held in the community, building the capacity of community members to respond to mental health concerns.

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial

## Health workforce training in suicide prevention



This six-hour interactive workshop aims to build the skills and confidence of health workforce to identify, screen, assess, and manage people presenting with, or at risk of, deliberate self-harm and suicidal behaviours.

### Training dates

**BROOME**  
Lotteries House

Tuesday 1st September  
Wednesday 2nd September

**DERBY**  
Spinifex Hotel

Thursday 3rd September  
Friday 4th September

**FITZROY CROSSING**  
Karrayili

Monday 7th September  
Tuesday 8th September

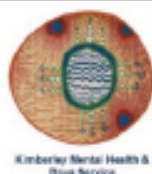
**HALLS CREEK**  
Pioneer Park

Wednesday 9th September  
Thursday 10th September

**Training is free-of-charge and will be fully catered**

Please complete registration form and email to  
Stefanie Faraone  
[spcapacitybuilding@kamsc.org.au](mailto:spcapacitybuilding@kamsc.org.au) | 9194 3205

Registration form to be in by  
**Wednesday 26 August 2020**



**KIMBERLEY**  
Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial