



Centre for  
Developmental Health



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# WA State Suicide Prevention Plan

## Consultation paper response sheet

This document is designed to prompt respondents to address the issues raised in the consultation paper. Additional copies of the consultation paper are available from [www.mcsp.org.au](http://www.mcsp.org.au).

Feel free to use any or all of these headings or to structure your response in any way that makes sense to you. All comments will be considered, regardless of the format.

Reply by: 15 August 2007

**Submit by Email**

Identifying yourself will enable us to contact you and clarify points you may make. Identification is optional. Identified submissions will be posted on the MCSP website. If you do not want your submission posted please let us know. Unidentified responses will not be posted. If you want to have your submission posted but do not want identifying information publicly displayed please contact us.

**Organisation:** Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service

**Position:** Mental Health Nurse/Mens Counsellor

**1. Promote professional community and consumer understanding of suicide, its link with mental health and effective strategies for prevention.**

**How can government and non-government organisations develop more sustainable approaches to training in suicide prevention?**

Input from local people especially Indigenous.

**How could the evaluation of government and community-based suicide prevention programs be evaluated more consistently?**

Coordination through designated staff within a specified Organisation.

**How should existing epidemiological surveillance systems be managed to enable their more effective utilisation?**

Coordination through designated staff within a specified Organisation.

**How can high quality information relevant to the needs of different professional and community groups concerned with suicide prevention be more effectively disseminated?**

Existing technology probably adequate.

**2. Strengthen prevention, promotion and early intervention in mental health and suicide prevention.**

**What needs to be done to ensure that the Council strengthens its links with key stakeholders (media outlets, community leaders)?** Conferencing.

**What investment is needed to build a coordinated and sustained approach to mental health promotion across the state?**

Funding.

**Should media-based community education strategies be developed to reduce stigma and promote awareness of avenues for securing help with mental health problems?**

Definitely by radio and television.

**What practical strategies are needed to improve men's help-seeking behaviour and enable services to be more accessible to men?**

Male staffing in Indigenous contexts.

### **3. Build community capacity for suicide prevention**

**What is needed to enable different local groups to come together, share information and develop strategies for working together?**

Training for Community Members.

**How can 'infrastructure' such as innovative use of new technologies be created to support networking?**

User friendly technology.

**How can organisations that have a shared interest in suicide prevention, be supported to build alliances to:**

**• Reduce key risk factors?**  
Promote sharing of knowledge.

**• Strengthen protective factors?**

Community Education. Indigenous Focus.

### **4. Support planning within and between government and community sector agencies for suicide prevention.**

**How should current suicide prevention initiatives be aligned with the New State Mental Health Plan?**

Still have to maintain local and indigenous focuses.

**What is needed to ensure that risk assessment procedures, referral processes and support mechanisms are developed by different groups and agencies and the reciprocal relationships between agencies are clarified?**

MOU's; Conferencing.

**Should each State Government department be encouraged to develop its own strategic action plan (including a training plan) for suicide prevention?**

Yes, but also by region.

**What should be done to strengthen the communication between the Commonwealth and State governments with regard to suicide prevention in WA?**

Funding. Communicate through professionals not politicians.

**How can networking between 'resilience building' and other community-based projects be facilitated by use of new information technologies and communication systems – particularly for more geographically isolated communities?**

Use radio and television in remote areas

**Are there specific legislative considerations needed to enable the timely exchange of relevant information between departments in situations of heightened suicide risk (e.g. suicide 'clusters' or teenage pacts)?** Greater liaison between Government and Non Government agencies.

**What organisational mechanism is required for government accountability in the implementation of the WA State Plan for Suicide Prevention?**

Designate who is responsible.

### **5. Build partnerships, professional and community capacity to address the high-rate of suicide among Indigenous West Australians**

**What is required to support the re-establishment of an Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Working Group to support the participation of Aboriginal community agencies and to build collaborative relationships with mainstream mental health and other human service providers?**

See what worked and didn't work before. Use what worked.

**Given that reducing suicide in Indigenous communities is of one of the 'headline' indicators of COAG's Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage strategy, what priority should be given to Aboriginal Suicide Prevention in the implementation of the State Mental Health Plan and the State Suicide Prevention Strategy?**

Funding according to suicide/self harm figures. ie. More support for indigenous organisations.

**What investments are needed to build partnerships with Aboriginal and mainstream service providers in training and support for managing critical incidents and suicide clusters?**

Formal MOU's. Conferencing and shared training.

**How can the work already being done by communities and Departments in universal (developmental) prevention in building community capacity be best supported?**

**1a. Do you consider any of the 5 key issues, above, unimportant? If so, why?**

**1b. Do you think any key areas for action are missing? If so, what are they?**

**2. What are key factors that may be contributing to suicide risk in your local area?**

**3a. Thinking about the 5 key areas for action, what is currently being done, locally, about one or more of these actions?**

**3b. What important actions are not occurring locally?**

**3c. What more would you like to see done to prevent suicide: i) At a state level?**

**3c. ii) At a local level?**