

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Suicide prevention

Regarding the Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023 and Implementation Plan:

- 1. How is the government increasing "accessibility to prevention, intervention and postvention initiatives being delivered in all sectors"? (p19 implementation plan). What resources have you put towards this goal?**

The 12 month progress report on the Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023 and Implementation Plan will be released in September 2019.

- 2. What resources are you allocating for the development of an "online platform covering all of NT" (p22)?**

The NT Health website is the current site for disseminating information relevant for regional planning.

- 3. How are you promoting "local training opportunities for staff providing services to priority groups" (p25)**

Refer to Question 1

- 4. How do you plan to "embed professional development in workplaces to facilitate a culturally safe and trauma informed approach to engaging individuals and communities"? (p25)**

Refer to Question 1

5. **What, if any, progress has been made in regional suicide prevention planning in the NT? Are there any regional plans in place yet or in development? What resources have you allocated to regional planning? (p27)**

Refer to Question 1

6. **Who specifically sits on the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee? How often does it meet and how often does it report on progress?**

Northern Territory Government departments represented on the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee (NTSPCC) are Department of the Chief Minister, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health (Chair), Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Department of Tourism and Culture, Department of Treasury and Finance, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Territory Families. Australian Government departments on the NTSPCC are Department of Defence, Department of Health, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Social Services, and Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT and the NT Primary Health Network are also represented.

NTSPCC meets quarterly and provides an annual report card to the Minister for Health.

On related issues:

7. **On 10 November last year you announced 23 applicants had been awarded a total of \$200,000 worth of Suicide Prevention Community grants - who were the recipients of the grants and for what projects?**

Please see Attachment A.

8. What specific programs targeting youth suicide have you funded for five years? When did the funding begin?

Ongoing funding is provided to Anglicare in Darwin, and Lifeline in Alice Springs to deliver ASIST suicide prevention training for frontline staff, a portion of this is accessed by youth specific services. Anglicare and Lifeline have been historically funded to deliver these services.

The NT Suicide Prevention Community Grants are advertised annually, additionally a large portion of applicants received are from youth specific services. Funding for these community grants commenced in 2018-19.

9. What is the current suicide rate in the Northern Territory and how does it compare with previous years?

The most recent rates are:

In 2017, 51 Territorians took their own lives, this represents 1.6 per cent of all deaths by suicide in Australia.

The cause of death reports are published annually by the ABS and available from their website:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/3303.0~2017~Main%20Features~Intentional%20self-harm,%20key%20characteristics~3>

FUNDING RECOMMENDED							
	ORGANISATION NAME	TITLE OF ACTIVITY / PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GRANT REQUESTED	GRANT AWARDED	AUSPICE BODY	REGION
1	Urapuntja Health Service Aboriginal Health Service	Community Mental Health First Aid Courses.	To provide specifically age and culturally identified and appropriate mental health first aid courses to community members, local staff and students.	\$10,000	\$10,000	N/A	Central Australia
2	Telling Story: Sudha Coutinho	Tiwi Strong Women: Watering the Tree of Life	A narrative therapy project utilising the <i>Tree of Life</i> methodology. In collaboration with Tiwi Strong Women's Group. <i>Tree of Life</i> promotes the development of protective factors and resilience building.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Relationships Australia	Tiwi Islands
3	The Hub of Respect Inc.	Making a Difference Program	The Making A Difference (MAD) program is a prevention and early intervention program aimed at vulnerable young people and adults that have been identified as engaging or likely to be engaged in high risk behaviours.	\$9,800	\$9,800	N/A	Central Australia
4	Telling Story: Sudha Coutinho	Good stories that make spirit strong - unearthing Beswick community wisdom to face hard times	Telling Story will collaborate with Roper Gulf Regional Council to support community members who have experienced grief, loss and trauma to promote strengths based approaches and transformative stories.	\$10,000	\$10,000	N/A	Katherine
5	Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation	Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds Program	The delivery of a suicide awareness campaign as part of the Health Bodies Healthy Mind program in the Yirrkala community.	\$10,000	\$10,000	N/A	East Arnhem
6	Miwatj Aboriginal Health Corporation	Gunyangara Dirramu Mala Walk Project	The provision of a safe space where Gunyanagra Birritjmi men can meet with clinicians to share stories and understanding and creating a platform for health education and support.	\$10,500	\$10,000	N/A	East Arnhem

ATTACHMENT A

7	Miwatj Aboriginal Health Corporation	Yirrkala Dirramu Mala Walk Project	The provision of a safe space where Yirrkala men can meet with clinicians to share stories and understanding and creating a platform for health education and support	\$10,500	\$10,000	N/A	East Arnhem
8	Miwatj Aboriginal Health Corporation	Miwatj Youth Reference Group	Engage young people in a youth reference group to advise Miwatj Health on youth related matters, and generate actions and awareness	\$10,000	\$10,000	N/A	East Arnhem
9	Charles Darwin University	Suicide prevention awareness training for CDU staff	Suicide prevention training for CDU staff to increase suicide awareness and skills to identify at risk students.	\$9,820	\$9,820	N/A	Territory wide
10	Tiwi Contractors	Community BBQ event.	Hosting a community BBQ to provide information on community development programs, employment opportunities and showcasing existing helpline and support organisations with guest speakers to provide expertise on suicide prevention strategies.	\$960	\$960	N/A	East Arnhem
11	MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC)	Central Australia Suicide Prevention Workshop	Bringing together people from throughout the Central Australian region with a focus on suicide prevention strategies for both youth and adults. The "Little Red Threatbook" will be redeveloped to ensure it is culturally appropriate.	\$10,000	\$10,000	N/A	Central Australia
12	Darwin Indigenous Men's Service Inc	Aboriginal Men's Healing and Yarning Circles	An early intervention strategy with healing and yarning circles focus on increasing emotional resilience and reducing vulnerability to mental health and suicide ideation.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women Shelter	Darwin
13	Palmerston Rugby Union Club	NT Rugby: R U OK? Round 2019	NT Rugby Union and Palmerston Rugby Club will facilitate an R U OK? Round in the rugby 2019 competition with the objective of promoting R U OK? Suicide prevention and wellbeing strategies to players, their families and friends, and the wider NT community.	\$9,732	\$8,000	N/A	Palmerston

ATTACHMENT A

14	SabrinasRide4life	Darwin Suicide Bereavement Support Group (DSBSG).	Establishment of a support group in Darwin for those in the community who have been impacted and have a lived experience of suicide, to educate others in the community about accessing help in times of need.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Anglicare NT	Darwin
15	AFL Northern Territory	Kicking Community Goals on Suicide Prevention project.	Suicide prevention training to be provided to staff who support ALF programs in remote communities. These staff will then provide awareness campaigns in Galiwinku, Maningrida and the Gove peninsula.	\$8,811	\$8,811	N/A	West and East Arnhem
16	Darwin Region Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network (DRISPN)	Community Engagement Project.	Facilitate community events in direct response to local community needs as well as to support events around suicide prevention and mental health awareness.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Anglicare NT	Darwin
17	Darwin Youth Suicide Prevention Network (DYSPN)	Darwin Youth Suicide Prevention Network "Dance for Life" Events.	Engage youth across Darwin and Palmerston to reduce stigma associated with suicide. The bi-monthly community events will raise awareness on the issues of bullying and social and emotional wellbeing.	\$9,650	\$9,650	Thirrili Ltd	Darwin and Palmerston
18	OzHelp Foundation	Suicide Prevention for Remote Cattle Stations in NT.	OzHelp staff will travel throughout the NT to remote cattle stations and provide support and awareness for physical and mental health.	\$9,983	\$9,983	N/A	Katherine and throughout NT
19	Dawn House	Women and Children's Therapy.	Support for art materials to engage women and children in weekly programs to aid interpersonal skills, problem solving, mindfulness, self-esteem, resilience and self-confidence building	\$2,500	\$2,500	N/A	Darwin