

# Development of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy

December 2024



Australian Government



National  
**Suicide  
Prevention**  
Office

## Acknowledgement of Country

The National Suicide Prevention Office (NSPO) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live, work and learn.

## Recognition of lived experience

The NSPO recognises the individual and collective contributions of those with lived and living experience of suicide. People who experience suicidal thoughts, have survived suicide attempts, cared for a person in suicidal crisis or have lost a loved one to suicide demonstrate tremendous generosity through providing their expertise and insights. Every person's journey is unique and a valued contribution to Australia's commitment to suicide prevention reform.

## Sources of support

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, please ask for help. Support is always available. Below are options for online and telephone information and support in Australia.

**Lifeline:**

13 11 14

[Lifeline.org.au](https://www.lifeline.org.au)

**Suicide Call Back Service:**

1300 659 467

[Suicidecallbackservice.org.au](https://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

**Beyond Blue:**

1300 224 636

[Beyondblue.org.au](https://www.beyondblue.org.au)

**MensLine Australia:**

1300 789 978

[Mensline.org.au](https://www.mensline.org.au)

**Kids Helpline:**

1800 551 800

[Kidshelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

**headspace:**

1800 650 890

**ReachOut:**

[au.reachout.com](https://www.au.reachout.com)

**Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Peoples:****LGBTIQ+ community:**

1800 184 527

[Qlife.org.au](https://www qlife.org.au)

**Culturally and linguistically  
diverse communities:**

[embracementalhealth.org.au](https://www.embracementalhealth.org.au)

**Head to Health:**

[Headtohealth.gov.au](https://www.headtohealth.gov.au)

## Introduction

The National Suicide Prevention Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed through extensive research, collaboration and consultation with experts in suicide prevention across academia, the suicide prevention sector and people with lived and living experience of suicide prevention. The Strategy has also been extensively consulted on and reviewed by relevant Commonwealth, state and territory departments and agencies.

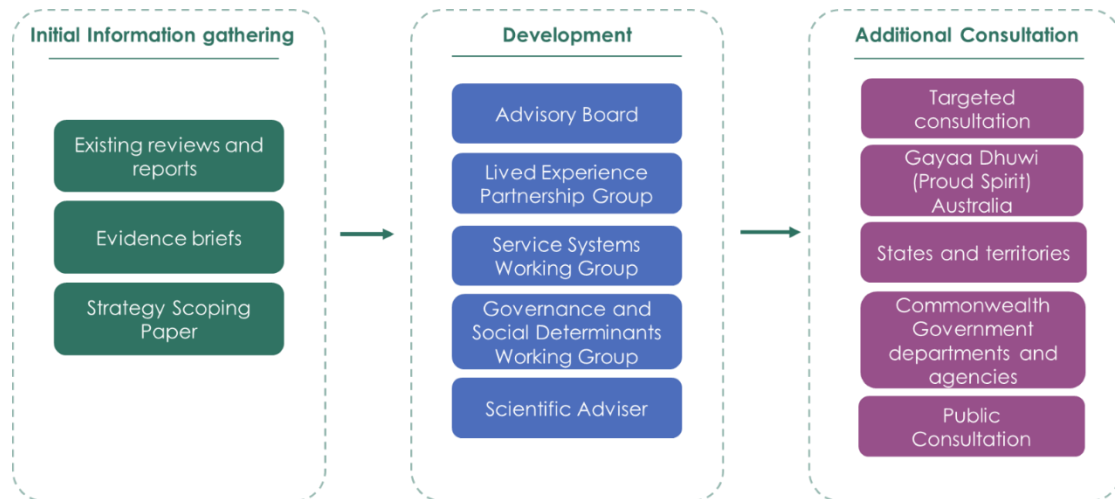


Figure 1: Overview of Strategy development and consultations

## Initial Information gathering

- Recommendations from more than 30 existing reviews and reports, including the National Suicide Prevention Adviser’s Final Advice, and the Productivity Commission Inquiry Report into Mental Health were analysed and used to establish an understanding of previous work in this area.
- The National Suicide Prevention Office (NSPO) commissioned evidence reviews that were produced through the LifeWays network. These drew on domestic and international academic expertise and provided an evidence base for the Strategy.
- A public consultation on a scoping paper outlining the composition and development of the Strategy was conducted in November 2022. Input received informed the development process.

## Advisory Groups

The Development of the Strategy was guided by:

- The NSPO’s Advisory Board and Lived Experience Partnership Group
- Two working groups composed of individuals with specific subject matter expertise appointed through expression of interest.
- Scientific Advisor, Prof. Jane Pirkis.

Membership of these groups is outlined at the end of this document.

## Targeted Consultation

### Groups disproportionately impacted by suicide

Targeted consultations with specific groups disproportionately impacted by suicide were conducted to inform the development of the Strategy. These consultations included:

- Participants at the Lived Experience Summit in 2023.
- Consultation conducted by Suicide Prevention Australia on behalf of the NSPO with 95 people over 10 sessions focused on: men; regional, rural and remote communities; people with disability; CALD communities; and older Australians.
- Consultation conducted by LGBTIQ+ Health Australia on behalf of the NSPO with 62 people over 6 sessions focused on LGB, trans and gender diverse, Intersex, Aboriginal and CALD communities, and LGBTIQ+ people with disability.
- The Office for Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Youth Advisory Group.
- Consultation with a group of 15 young people with lived and living experience of suicide recruited through the NSPOs national networks.

Table 1: Summary of targeted consultations with people with lived and living experience of suicide

Consultations	No Consultations	No Attendees
Roses in the Ocean Lived Experience Summit	1	230
Suicide Prevention Australia	10	95
LGBTIQA+ Health Australia	6	62
Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Youth Advisory Group – Office for Youth	1	7
Consultation with Young People	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>401</b>

## Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander communities - Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia

- The NSPO works closely with Gayaa Dhuwi to ensure alignment between the Strategy and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy as well as the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration Implementation Plan.

## Commonwealth Government departments and agencies

- Throughout December 2023 to February 2024 the NSPO consulted with all Commonwealth departments and agencies with relevance to actions within the draft Strategy.
- This occurred first through an interdepartmental committee and then through individual briefings, consultation and the receipt of feedback from each relevant department and agency. All feedback was applied.

- Explicit endorsement for the Strategy to proceed to public consultation was sought. No objections were raised by any department or agency.
- In November 2024, following the public consultation, the NSPO met again with Senior Officials from all relevant portfolios to secure endorsement for adoption of the document as the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Table 2: List of Commonwealth departments and agencies consulted

List of Commonwealth Government Departments and Agencies consulted
Attorney-General's Department (National Office for Child Safety; Justice and Communities Group; Children and Families Division, and Human Rights Branch)
Australian Human Rights Commission (Children's Rights; Human Rights Education; and Projects and Partnerships)
Comcare
Department of Defence
Department of Education
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Safety and Industry Policy)
Department of Finance
Department of Home Affairs
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Broadcasting and Gambling Regulation Division; Online Safety, Media and Platforms Division; and Regional Development and Local Government Division)
Department of Social Services (Security Section - Pensions, Housing and Homelessness, Social security, Women's Safety, Families and Communities Group; Participation and Family Payments Group)
Department of Veteran's Affairs
eSafety Commissioner
National Emergency Management Agency
Federal Circuit and Family Court
National Indigenous Australian's Agency
Treasury
Safe Work Australia

## States and territories

- The NSPO worked through the Jurisdiction Collaborative Forum (JCF), which includes suicide prevention leads from all states and territories as well as the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.
- Throughout January and February 2024, the NSPO also had further detailed consultations with officials from all states and territories.
- In December 2024, following the public consultation, the NSPO once again briefed suicide prevention leads from all states and territories. The Strategy was then considered by the Health Chief Executives Forum.

Table 3: List of jurisdictions consulted

Jurisdiction	Department/ agency
ACT	ACT Department of Health
NSW	NSW Ministry of Health, NSW Mental Health Commission NSW Mental Health Commission
NT	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Department of Health
QLD	Department of Health QLD Mental Health Commission
SA	Office of Chief Psychiatrist Wellbeing South Australia
Tasmania	Department of Health
Victoria	Suicide Prevention and Response Office
WA	Department of Health WA Mental Health Commission

## Membership of Advisory Boards and Working Groups

Table 2: Membership of the Lived Experience Partnership Group

Name	State or Territory of residence
Susan Edgar (Chair)	Western Australia
Ken Barnard	New South Wales Nov 22 – Sep 24
Amy Bertakis	New South Wales
Benjamin Brien	New South Wales
Ben Farinazzo	Australian Capital Territory Nov 22 – Apr 24
Jordan Frith	Queensland
Isha Garg	Victoria
Charles Nasir	Northern Territory
Imbi Pyman	Victoria
Chaya Rainbird	Tasmania
Refugee (name withheld for cultural reasons)	South Australia
Jo Riley	New South Wales
Chris Trupp	Queensland
Luke Woods	Queensland

Table 3: Membership of the Advisory Board

Name
Dr Alan Woodward (Chair)
Prof Steve Allsop
Gwen Cherne
Prof Henry Cutler
Prof Pat Dudgeon
Prof Kathy Eagar
Bronwen Edwards
Prof Karen Fisher
Prof Sharon Friel
Graeme Holdsworth
Pino Migliorino
Nicolas Parkhill
Kym Peake
Dr Wendy Southern PSM
Chief Executive Officer, Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia
Chief Executive Officer, National Mental Health Commission
Chief Executive Officer, Suicide Prevention Australia



Table 4: Membership of Working Groups

<b>Governance and Social Determinants Working Group</b>	<b>Service Systems Working Group</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
Peter Anderson	Katrina Armstrong
Joe Ball	Monica Barolits-McCabe
Melinda Benson	Marion Byrne
Stephen Carbone	Maria Cassaniti
Gillian Clark	Joyce Chia
Zaccariah Cox	Sam Cruickshank
Nicole Falkiner	Mark Ellis
Thomas Jessup	Kate Finch
Anna Louise Kimpton	Kerry Gleeson
Time Keane	Erin Halligan
Kathryn Mandla	Nikki Jamieson
Stephen Scott	Luke Lindsay
Fiona Shand	Dan Mobbs
Staphanie Trainor	Mike Nolan
Addie Wootten	Jay Pickard
	Nicholas Proctor
	Jo Robinson
	Hope Saba



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