

MEDIA RELEASE

Suicide prevention community grants now open

22 November 2023

Suicide can have lasting impacts across communities. It is complex and multifaceted, with no “one size fits all” solution.

Grants of up \$10,000, \$50,000 and \$150,000 are now open to community groups, organisations and service providers, to deliver projects aimed at reducing the impact and incidence of suicide.

We know that multiple approaches are needed to make a difference in reducing suicide rates, and at all levels of government and community. Murray PHN believes that these grants can result in a range of meaningful initiatives, designed by and for local communities.

Murray PHN CEO, Matt Jones, said that the organisation’s recent experiences demonstrated that communities usually understood the barriers, needs, challenges and opportunities they faced, and that the right grassroots projects could generate effective local results.

“Every suicide is a tragedy, and one that can be felt deeply in rural and regional areas, where almost everyone knows someone whose family or friends have been impacted,” he said.

“The ripple effect of suicide in a small community means that we should be empowering those with first-hand experiences and local insight to help provide targeted support where it is needed most.”

With two multi-year suicide prevention placed-based trials in Mildura and Benalla now complete, Murray PHN is working to embed the Black Dog Institute’s community-led Lifespan framework across the region.

For grant applications to be successful, they must meet elements of the framework, which combines nine strategies with a strong evidence-base and an integrated approach for suicide prevention. The overarching aim of the framework is to build a safety net through connecting and coordinating community efforts.

Four of the nine strategies in the framework promote help-seeking, mental health and resilience in schools; training the community to recognise and respond to suicidality; engaging the community and providing opportunities to be part of the change and improving emergency and follow-up care for suicidal crisis.

Another important element for applicants to consider is the inclusion of people with lived experience. A lived experience of suicide is having experienced suicidal thoughts, survived a suicide attempt, supported a loved one through suicidal crisis or been bereaved by suicide.

Within this grant program, Murray PHN also has funds available for groups or organisations to receive support and training from Australia’s national lived experience of suicide organisation, Roses in The Ocean.

Interested parties can register or login to Murray PHN's e-tendering website, eProcure, to access grant documentation and to submit a proposal.

Go to <https://app.eprocure.com.au/murrayphn> and note that all questions and enquires must be made through eProcure.

Tender submissions close at 3pm on Monday 4 December 2023.

This activity is supported by funding from the Australian Government as part of the Targeted Regional Initiatives for Suicide Prevention program.

If you are in an emergency or at immediate risk of harm to yourself or others, please contact emergency services on 000. Other services include:

- *Lifeline*, 24/7 crisis support. Call 13 11 14 or text 0477 131 114
- *Beyond Blue*, 24/7 mental health support service. Call 1300 22 4636
- *Suicide Call Back Service*, 24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide. Call 1300 659 467
- *13YARN*, 24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Call 13 92 76
- *QLife*, LGBTQIA+ support. Call 1800 184 527 (3pm to midnight only).

A note for media on reporting suicide:

There is extensive literature linking media reporting of suicide with increased suicide rates. Suicidal behaviour can be 'learned' from the media when reports are sensationalised, focus on celebrities, are repeated, and explicitly describe location and method details. Evidence suggests that responsible reporting of suicide by the media can reduce suicide rates. Mindframe Australia Media Guidelines support the media to report suicide accurately, responsibly, and ethically. A summary version of these guidelines available from <https://mindframe.org.au/industry-hubs/for-media> or on the Mindframe App.

About Murray PHN:

Murray PHN is one of 31 PHNs (Primary Health Networks) around Australia working to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care and service systems. Across our region, we work with general practitioners (GPs), community health, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), pharmacy, aged care and allied health practitioners, and with acute services such as hospitals, specialists and emergency care.

The role of PHNs is to help to support and integrate the work of these important services to ensure that the people get the right care, in the right place, at the right time. In the Murray PHN region, which covers almost 100,000 sq km of regional Victoria, we work to develop and maintain sustainable models of primary health care for our communities.

Promotional images

- Banner
- Tile

For more information or to request an interview

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