

12 November 2025

Maureen Lewis
Commissioner
WA Mental Health Commission
Level 1, 1 Nash Street
Perth, Western Australia 6000

Dear Commissioner,

Response to draft WA Suicide Prevention Framework

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on WA's draft Suicide Prevention Framework (Framework). We were pleased to see the draft Framework closely aligns with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (National Strategy).

As you would know, the National Strategy was informed by extensive consultation with people with lived and living experience of suicide, with all Commonwealth departments and agencies with portfolio responsibility relevant to the recommended actions, as well as with all state and territory governments. We want to take this opportunity to again thank all those from Western Australia who contributed to these consultations.

Alignment between the National Strategy and the WA Framework ensures the latter leverages the extensive consultations and evidence that supported the development of the former. The streams, objectives, principles, and foundations underpinning the model of the Framework reflect the domains, objectives, and critical enablers of the National Strategy. This alignment further supports a whole-of-governments approach where we are all working towards the same outcomes across Australia to provide a robust and effective suicide prevention system.

We support the Framework's adoption of a system and community wide approach to addressing the social determinants of suicide. This aligns with the whole-of-governments approach taken in the National Strategy and is a vital component in suicide prevention as many of the factors that contribute to or protect against suicide fall outside of the remit of health portfolios. We agree that strong leadership, clear governance and cross-sector partnerships are needed to drive collaborative suicide prevention efforts across government, sectors and services.

The National Strategy highlights the need for funding arrangements to provide greater continuity of services and include key performance indicators to allow for monitoring and improvement of services. Specifically, the National Strategy recommends allocating sufficient funding and to develop appropriate funding models to improve quality and outcomes, facilitate effective cross-portfolio collaboration, and reduce funding duplication and gaps (action 11.2a). Consideration of longer-term funding cycles to support sustainability, continuity of care, and evaluation of suicide prevention efforts should be given to support implementation of the WA Framework.

We thank you for recognising our work in developing the National Suicide Prevention Outcomes Framework (Outcomes Framework) in your Framework to strengthen national alignment. We recognise

that the content drafted is based on past consultation with the National Suicide Prevention Office. Since that time, we have further developed key messaging for the Outcomes Framework and request content about the Outcomes Framework at the end of page 57 be replaced with the following description to reflect current public messaging:

The National Suicide Prevention Office is developing the National Suicide Prevention Outcomes Framework (the Outcomes Framework) which will measure progress against the direction outlined in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (the Strategy) using outcomes that matter to people. The Outcomes Framework moves away from traditional approaches of measuring progress solely based on numbers, to adopt a mixed methods approach, combining statistics and stories to improve understanding about people's experiences. By focusing on the impact of suicide prevention activity, reporting against the Outcomes Framework will help guide decision making about where to focus efforts. In addition to the key goal of reducing suicide deaths, the Outcomes Framework expands the goals for suicide prevention to include reducing suicide attempts and suicidal distress and increasing wellbeing to protect against suicide.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Framework and commend WA Mental Health Commission for their work. For more information about our response please contact Michael Cook, Director, Policy on Michael.cook@nspo.gov.au.

Kind regards,



Alex Hains
Head
National Suicide Prevention Office