

MEDIA RELEASE

NGAREE AH KIT

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION, MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Ngaree Ah Kit, Member for Karama

Suicide Talks Key to Finding Solutions

22 May 2017

The first in a series of community consultations have begun in Maningrida today to overhaul the NT Suicide Prevention Strategy.

The Assistant Minister for Suicide Prevention, Ngaree Ah Kit, said the Northern Territory has some of the highest rates of suicide in the country with many families impacted.

“Every suicide is a tragedy and the rates we have in the Northern Territory are unacceptable.

“The Territory Labor Government wants to halve suicide rates over the next decade,” Ms Ah Kit said.

“We know that Indigenous elders, organisations and communities have to be part of any viable solution.

“That’s why we are engaging and consulting across the region to build an inclusive policy.

“There are many organisations across the Territory doing important work in this space. As a government we need to know what’s working, where the gaps are and how we can best support programs and improvements.

“A Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee (SPCC) has been established to oversee the development of a new multi-sectoral prevention strategy, including:

- Northern Territory Government Departments
- Northern Territory Primary Health Network
- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
- Department of Defence (Australian Government)
- Department of Health (Australian Government)
- Department of Social Services (Australian Government)
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Veterans’ Affairs

“The new NT Suicide Prevention Strategy will look at how people and agencies can work together, across Government and with all of the community.

The Department of Health, will coordinate this work in consultation with the Minister for Health Natasha Fyles and the Assistant Minister for Suicide Prevention Ngaree Ah Kit.

Assistant Minister Ah Kit said consultations will continue in Katherine later this month, with meetings in Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy in June and July.

“We need all sectors of the community to get involved,” Ms Ah Kit said.

“Interested parties can provide feedback or request the discussion paper by calling the Mental Health Directorate on 08 89992553 or emailing suicide.prevention@nt.gov.au.

“The new strategy is expected to be ready for review by the Legislative Assembly later this year.

“This work will compliment federal government’s National Indigenous Critical Response Project in Nhulunbuy and the major prevention trials running at 12 sites across Australia, including the greater Darwin region.”

For more information go to: www.suicideprevention.nt.gov.au (<http://www.suicideprevention.nt.gov.au/>) or <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/mental-health/suicide-signs-and-prevention> (<https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/mental-health/suicide-signs-and-prevention>)

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