

Closing the Gap Social and Emotional Wellbeing Policy Partnership - Meeting 1 Communique, 30-31 March 2023

The first meeting of the Closing the Gap Social and Emotional Wellbeing Policy Partnership was held on 30-31 March 2023 on Kurna country in Adelaide. The Partnership brings together First Nations and government members to accelerate action to improve social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) and mental health outcomes and reduce suicide rates. The meeting was co-Chaired by Professor Pat Dudgeon, Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia and Tania Rishniw, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care.

The meeting was positive, open, and frank, with initial discussion focused on building strong foundations for culturally safe governance and ways of working for the Partnership, and the importance of defining SEWB for the purposes of the Partnership, to encompass mental health and suicide prevention.

POLICY PRIORITY AREA: SEWB - BACKGROUND

DAY ONE:
30-03-23



First Nations members brought forward priorities for consideration by the Partnership, including two key priorities for early action:

- a refresh of the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-23* (including an implementation plan), and
- the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led commissioning framework.

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES FIRST NATIONS MEMBERS

DAY ONE:
30-03-23

FIRST MEETING: 10TH AUGUST



Government members shared information on key priorities and actions underway in each jurisdiction.

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES SYNERGIES ACROSS GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

DAY ONE:
30.03.23

NT

- LEGITIMISE WORKFORCE
- REIMAGINE PRIMARY CARE MODEL OF DELIVERY
- INCARCERATION: WHAT IS THE STRENGTH BASE THAT COULD BE MOBILISED WHEN THEY LEAVE?

WA

- EMBEDDING SEWB IN ACTIVITIES
- PARTNERSHIP PLANNING GROUP 9
- KIMBERLEY ABORIGINAL YOUTH WELLBEING STEERING COMMITTEE
- WA AFTERCARE SERVICES PROGRAM

SA

- DEVELOPMENT OF ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORKS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- SA SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN: REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES AND ITS IMPACT ON SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

TAS

- SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY
- RETHINK 2020: IDENTIFY LINKS BETWEEN PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

QLD VERY EXCITING TIME

- NEW 5 YEAR FUNDING
- DELIVER RECOMMENDATIONS 'BETTER CARE TOGETHER'
- CHALLENGE: RECRUITING WORKFORCE
- 'MAKING TRACKS TOGETHER': QUEENSLAND'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK

COMMONWEALTH

- WORKING WITH THE SECTOR TO TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SERVICES
- HOW DO WE BUILD AND SUPPORT THE SEWB WORKFORCE?
- STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS FOR SEWB, MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE PREVENTION
- GROWING & SUPPORTING THE FIRST NATIONS WORKFORCE
- PRIORITISING FIRST NATIONS-LED & COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESPONSES

NSW

- NSW ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY 2020-2025 ABORIGINAL LED EVALUATION
- CLOSING THE GAP TOWARDS ZERO SUICIDES BUILDING ON ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES' RESILIENCE 12-24 COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGS.
- ABORIGINAL M.H. MODELS OF CARE

ACT

- EMPOWER ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE 'TRAIN THE TRAINER'
- WE HAVE MORE CHILDREN BEING TAKEN AWAY
- WHAT DOES COMMUNITY REALLY WANT?

VIC

- WE'VE HAD ROYAL COMMISSION: BENEFIT MORE BROADLY
- VACCHO / DH PARTNERSHIP
- TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Key decisions by the Partnership:

1. The refresh of the SEWB Framework is a critical priority for the Partnership. Planning for the refresh will be the focus of the second Partnership meeting to be held in Darwin in July, to coincide with the next quarterly SEWB Gathering.
2. The 'Agreement to Implement' (the formal document that establishes the terms of reference for the Partnership) was agreed pending a number of revisions.
3. Two First Nations SEWB PP members to be appointed the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Senior Officials Group (MHSPSO) to provide policy advice and connection between and SEWB PP and MHSPSO and improve transparency and the embedding of the First Nations voice in mainstream services and systems.
4. Two First Nations representatives with lived experience to be appointed to MHSPSO. This will not only provide lived experiences from different cultures, but also provide cultural safety for these representatives.
5. The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) will join the Partnership as a non-voting member in recognition of the important role the agency plays in SEWB services and policy.
6. The Partnership will be renamed the 'Social and Emotional Wellbeing Policy Partnership', rather than 'Social and Emotional Wellbeing (Mental Health) Policy Partnership' in recognition that for the purposes of the Partnership, SEWB encompasses mental health and suicide prevention.