

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$8 MILLION NGO SUICIDE PREVENTION FUND

The NSW Government will invest \$8 million over four years in the 2016-17 Budget to establish a new Suicide Prevention Fund for NSW to continue to support people at-risk of suicide.

The contestable fund, available for non-government organisations (NGOs), will encourage both local and scalable initiatives for suicide prevention across a range of points in the system, from early intervention through to crisis care.

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward said suicide prevention and improving mental health outcomes are key priorities for the NSW Government.

“The new fund will support our NGO partners, who already provide invaluable and crucial support to local communities, to continue to connect and care for people at-risk of suicide,” Ms Goward said

“Suicide prevention is a whole of community issue and that is why it is vital that we continue to use a whole of system approach and forge partnerships with our wonderful NGOs”.

International research has shown that a ‘systems approach’ to suicide prevention is best, where multiple interventions are implemented simultaneously involving all sectors, including hospitals, GPs, police, schools, emergency services and, particularly, the community sector.

The Suicide Prevention Fund for NSW will also build on a range of initiatives the NSW Government already invests in to address suicide and self-harm in NSW including support of Lifeline, Suicide Risk Training and Mental Health First Aid training.

Applications for the NGO Suicide Prevention Fund will open later this year.

If you need help, please contact Lifeline (13 11 14, www.lifeline.org.au) or Kids Helpline (1800 551 800, www.kidshelpline.com.au).