



Pru Goward

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW LEADING THE NATION IN SUICIDE PREVENTION TRIAL

In an Australia-first, four NSW communities will take part in trialing a new evidence-based systems approach to suicide prevention.

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward today joined Professor Helen Christensen – Director and Chief Scientist from the Black Dog Institute to launch the Lifespan project and announce the four trial sites.

Ms Goward said suicide is a terrible tragedy for communities, workplaces and especially families and loved ones who are left behind.

“After a vigorous selection process and the generosity of the Ramsay Foundation, Lifespan will initially be implemented in Newcastle, the Illawarra Shoalhaven, the Central Coast and Murrumbidgee,” Ms Goward said.

Ms Goward said the Newcastle site would begin operating before the end of the year, with the next three sites to follow one after the other throughout 2017.

“Establishing the Lifespan program would not have been possible without the extremely generous donation of \$14.7 million from the Paul Ramsay Foundation,” Ms Goward said.

“This is a wonderful example of a model of collaboration that we need to see; philanthropy and research institutes working together with government and the non-government sector to help solve health and social problems.”

“I am looking forward to the strong partnership between NSW Health, the Black Dog Institute, the Mental Health Commission of NSW and the Paul Ramsay Foundation to reduce the risk and improve the lives of people at risk of suicide and self-harm.”

The sites will work alongside the NSW Government’s \$8 million Suicide Prevention Fund which will open submissions for mental health focused NGOs later this year.

LifeSpan is led by Black Dog Institute and the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention. LifeSpan will be delivered through a partnership with NSW Mental Health Commission, NSW Health, the Commonwealth Department of Health, and local partners, as well as Lived experience networks and other mental health organisations.