



## 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

Thursday, 8 September 2016

### **\$8 MILLION TO SUPPORT PEOPLE AT RISK OF SUICIDE**

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward has announced that people at risk of suicide will receive more local support as the NSW Government opens expressions of interest for an \$8 million suicide prevention program to run over the next four years.

The announcement comes on *R U OK? Day 2016*, a day dedicated to encouraging Australians to connect with people around them and support those who may be struggling.

Ms Goward is calling on non-government organisations (NGOs) from across NSW to submit proposals for services or programs that connect and care for people at risk of suicide in their local community.

The contestable fund encourages local and scalable suicide prevention initiatives across a range of points in the system, from early intervention through to crisis care.

“Our dedicated NGO partners already provide invaluable and crucial support to local communities. This suicide prevention fund will empower further development of innovative and localised frontline programs and services,” Ms Goward said.

“Suicide is a terrible tragedy for communities, especially for the families and loved ones left behind.

“Research shows that a large percentage of people at risk of suicide and self-harm have had no contact with traditional health services. That is why the NSW Government has committed dedicated suicide prevention funding to find new, local ways to help people in need in their community.”

The funded programs will need to address a gap in suicide prevention in the local community and will need to work collaboratively with local suicide groups and agencies.

For more information on the fund visit: <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/health/>

*If you need help, please contact Lifeline (13 11 14 or [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)) or contact the Kids Helpline (1800 551 800 or [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)).*

You can support R U OK? day by following them on Facebook at [facebook.com/ruokday](https://facebook.com/ruokday) or Twitter @RUOKDay using the hashtag #ruokday.