

Suicide Prevention Community Workshops – Western Adelaide

Monday 28 July 2025

On Monday 28 July 2025, members of the South Australian Suicide Prevention Council (the Council) met with community stakeholders, mental health professionals, and individuals with lived experience from across Western Adelaide to deepen their understanding of local suicide prevention challenges and opportunities.

The Council extends heartfelt thanks to the following organisations who attended and contributed:

Aspire Recovery Connection	Adelaide Primary Health Network
Community Clinical Rehabilitation Service	South Australian Police
Refugee Health Service	Wesley LifeForce
Department for Health and Wellbeing	Western Adelaide Suicide Prevention Network
Alcohol and Drug Foundation	Community Access and Services
Department of Child Protection Woodville	Multicultural Communities Council of SA
Villagehood Australia	Port Adelaide Suicide Prevention Network
Central Adelaide Local Health Network	The Untangle Project
Activ8 Mind	KWY
Junction Community Centre	Neami National
Neighbourhood Node / The Pear	Shed for Her
City of West Torrens	Puddle Jumpers Inc
Mind Australia	headspace Port Adelaide
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	AnglicareSA
City of Port Adelaide Enfield Council	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Port Adelaide District Baseball Club	Jack Buckskin

What the Council heard:

Throughout the meeting and workshops, attendees shared their insights and lived experience across the suicide prevention and community resilience sectors. A number of consistent themes emerged:

- **Support for grassroots, community-led and culturally appropriate initiatives** was considered essential, with many small organisations seeking flexible funding, venue access, and recognition for their unique contributions.
- **Lived experience must be embedded across all levels** of planning, service delivery, and evaluation. The importance of peer-led models and community-driven approaches were strongly endorsed.



- **Informal supports**, including sporting clubs, community leaders, and volunteers, play a vital but often under-recognised role in suicide prevention.
- **NGOs are essential frontline responders**, but face challenges due to fragmented, short-term funding, narrow commissioning models, and unclear referral pathways. There was a call for co-commissioning, longer funding cycles, and greater inclusion in strategy alignment.
- **Service accessibility and navigation remain a challenge**, with confusion around service names, eligibility, and inconsistent availability across regions. Suggestions included the development of a shared service directory and more walk-in, non-clinical options.
- **Connection and belonging reduce isolation and suicide risk.** Programs like the Men's Table, Miracle League, the Neighbourhood Node, and community drop-in spaces were highlighted as effective in building informal networks and supporting wellbeing.
- **Cultural inclusion and safety must be prioritised.** CALD communities require diverse methods of engagement and service delivery that go beyond digital platforms.
- **Postvention and aftercare** should be long-term, community-based, and inclusive of informal responders.
- **Western Adelaide stakeholders strongly advocated for a dedicated regional suicide prevention collaborative**, separate from the broader Central region, to enable more localised and culturally relevant responses.

The impact and opportunities:

Members of the Council have carefully reflected on the insights shared and recognise their responsibility to act, influence, and advocate. While many opportunities fall across government, PHNs, and other partners, the Council is committed to:

- Strengthening relationships with local councils and community-led networks to build trust and support community connection as a protective factor.
- Advocating for broader systemic improvements, including the inclusion of lived experience and regional postvention planning.
- Supporting improved visibility of existing supports and helping to amplify effective local models of care and connection.
- Continuing to push for the prioritisation of suicide prevention across whole-of-government strategies, including mental health, education, and community development.
- Exploring supported pathways into the lived experience workforce, enabling individuals to access the education, training, and guidance needed to confidently enter and sustain roles in suicide prevention and mental health.
- Championing reforms to the *Suicide Prevention Act 2021* to ensure the legislation reflects best practice and continues to provide a strong, contemporary framework for suicide prevention in South Australia.



Our Commitment and Appreciation:

The South Australian Suicide Prevention Council remains dedicated to reducing the incidence of suicide and supporting those impacted by it. We are deeply grateful for the generosity, wisdom, and leadership of all contributors to this meeting and thank you for your unwavering commitment to your communities.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration to create a safer, stronger, and more connected South Australia.

On behalf of the Suicide Prevention Council



Nadia Clancy MP

Presiding Member, Suicide Prevention Council

