



Suicide Prevention Community Meeting — Salisbury Community Hub

Monday 24 June 2024

On 24 June 2024 members of the Suicide Prevention Council met with local community representatives in Salisbury to deepen their understanding of suicide prevention work and challenges in the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

During our meeting, a diverse range of stakeholders, including community organisations, mental health professionals and individuals with lived experience offered their insights and experience. Specifically, the Council is sincerely grateful to the following organisations who presented to the Council:

- Talk Out Loud - Suicide Prevention Network
- Playford Suicide Prevention Network
- Every Life Matters - Salisbury Suicide Prevention Network
- Mariposa Trails Suicide Prevention Network
- 'Aboriginal Voices Project' for the Suicide Prevention Collaborative in the North
- SONDER - Save Haven and head-to-health crisis centre
- Northern Adelaide Mental Health Alliance
- Crisis Stabilisation Centre
- Australian Refugee Association

What the Council Heard:

The presentations and discussions during the community meeting highlighted several key themes:

1. There are a range of local community-based suicide prevention networks, groups and organisations doing great work on the ground. However, it was recognised there is a need to create better connection between services to support each other to 'reach into' supports and systems that can more comprehensively support consumers, particularly where ongoing support is needed.
2. Consumer and organisation navigation pathways "to bridge the gap" between acute care and community-based services and supports could be better coordinated to reduce suicide risk.
3. "We need person led care, not person-centred care", where people are heard as a full person with a range of experiences and needs, including health, economic, family and cultural needs.
4. Where inclusive safe and welcoming environments operate, they build individual confidence to engage more often with services and with a broader variety of services.
5. Community connections assist navigation pathways and foster inclusivity and a sense of belonging and community connection.
6. Local government is an important partner in, and resource for, suicide prevention. It offers place-based infrastructure, supports and services that build community connection and inclusion. Providing safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces that build community and social connection through local government services is an important component of a comprehensive suicide prevention approach.
7. The Northern Mental Health Alliance was highlighted as an excellent place-based example to foster responses to the above issues, transfer knowledge and create space for agencies to collaborate actively with a focus on community and "leave profit and loss and egos at the door".





Next Steps:

The South Australian Suicide Prevention Council is committed to taking the following steps to utilise this knowledge effectively:

Attendee Survey: The Council has conducted a survey of participants as part of our commitment to transparency and continuous improvement.

Report to the Minister: The Council will provide a briefing to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the key themes from the day and how the Council will use these themes to inform the priorities of the Council.

Community Engagement: The Council will continue to engage with this community to progress the following matters locally:

1. Provide connection points for closer collaboration between Suicide Prevention Networks (SPNs) and local governments, that could include invitations for SPNs to council meetings and councils supporting SPNs with meeting spaces and infrastructure.
2. Explore opportunities with the South Australian Skills Commissioner to support capacity and capability building, through training, for the mental health and wellbeing peer workforce.

The South Australian Suicide Prevention Council remains dedicated to its mission of reducing the incidence of suicide and providing support to those affected by it. We extend our gratitude to all those who contributed to our community meeting and look forward to working collaboratively with our partners to create a safer and more supportive environment for all South Australians.

