

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION TRIAL

Activity Work Plan covering activities in 2020-21

Funding for the National Suicide Prevention Trial ceases 30 June 2021. The focus of the National Suicide Prevention Trial funding in 2020-21 should be on transition and sustainability.

In 2020-21, all sites participating in the National Suicide Prevention Trial are required to:

- Continue the focus on a systems-based approach to the delivery of suicide prevention services at a local level.
- Identify priority activity and consider funding arrangements in 2020-21 and sustainability options beyond 2020-21.
- Develop and implement strategies to safely transition clients from individual or group services to other existing or planned services.
- Continue to gather evidence and participate in relevant data collection and/or evaluation activities.

Activity Work Plans (AWPs) are to identify major activities in all stages of the trial that relate to these objectives.

Only activities that will be undertaken in the 2020-21 financial year should be entered into the AWP template, noting this may include activities which only run for part of the year or have been carried over from the previous year.

COVID-19 impacts

The Department acknowledges that restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted on many planned trial activities in the 2019-20 financial year. While the 2020-21 work plan should focus on transition, there is scope to deliver on activities that have been postponed as a result of COVID-19. If the activities will require a carryover of funds from 2019-20, this will need to be clearly identified in the AWP and budget.

Approval of Activity Work Plans

The Department has committed to expediting approval of all existing Primary Health Network (PHN) activities specified in 2020-21

PUBLICATION VERSION – June 2020

National Suicide Prevention Trial Activity Work Plan 2020-21

SUMMARY

Provide an overview of how transition will be approached, with particular focus on the following:

- *What options are there to support priority activity on a longer-term basis?*
- *For individual or group services – what plans will be in place to safely transition and support clients?*
- *How will end of trial or transition to other programs and services be communicated with key stakeholders?*
- *Which key partnerships may support transition and sustainability?*
- *Has COVID-19 impacted on key 2019-20 activity and if so, what are the plans to address this in 2020-21?*

The National Suicide Prevention Trial (NSPT) aims to provide evidence of how a more systems-based approach to suicide prevention might be best undertaken. In the Greater Darwin region, the NSPT aims to increase access to culturally appropriate suicide prevention services and activities for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are at risk of suicide and self-harm. Following the announcement of the transition year (2020-21) with additional funds (\$1 million) to deliver the suicide prevention services and activities in the region, NT PHN has established a Decision-Making Group (DMG) to support the transition process.

The DMG, which is a sub-group the NSPT Working Group, consists of representatives from Aboriginal Medical Alliance NT (AMSANT), Danila Dilba Health Service (DD), the NSPT Working Group Chairs and NT PHN. Furthermore, NT PHN has commissioned DD to develop key transition pathways and processes. The DMG is governed by a Terms of Reference that provides additional levels of support in governance, commissioning, sub-contracting, monitoring and evaluation, and program management.

Given that most of the NSPT Service providers have been commissioned to deliver local activities till October 2020, the DMG members will have the following responsibilities:

- Review commissioned trial activities to identify priority activity, considering factors such as impact, maturity, required resources and stakeholder needs.
- Consider alternative funding sources to sustain priority activity after the trial period, including through partnerships with relevant industries, businesses, local governments or other government agencies.
- Develop and implement strategies to safely transition clients from individual services to other existing or planned services.
- Support the commissioning of local evaluations, research, developing evidence-based tools or resources or investing in data improvement activities that will have a sustainable impact beyond the trial.

- Consolidating and communicating learnings and outcomes from the trial, through working with local and national evaluators, research organisations and the broader suicide prevention sector.
- Considering initiatives and programs that directly support community to address outreach support, including family, peer and early intervention initiatives and training.

NT PHN will ensure that all extended NSPT activities for 2020-21 are within the scope of the *National Suicide Prevention Trial – Transition Support Guidance and Supplementary Guidance – COVID-19 pandemic* documentation, and the locally designed Strengthening Our Spirits model. NT PHN will also review other funding sources to continue supporting key suicide prevention activities. As per the NT PHN commissioning Guidelines, NT PHN will contact each service provider individually to inform them of the outcomes of the DMG’s review of commissioned activities.

Key Partnerships:

NT PHN continues to regular engage with key stakeholders on a regular basis. The NSPT Steering Committee and the Working Group are comprised of key governmental and non-governmental suicide prevention stakeholders in the Greater Darwin region. The DMG will build and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders to explore ways of transitioning participants to other existing services and activities.

COVID-19 Impact:

In 2019-20, NT PHN commissioned the delivery of a total of 22 NSPT activities. Most of these projects were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Henceforth, NT PHN ensured regular communication and engagement with our commissioned service providers to:

- a) Identify any supports or queries that services have on their commissioned activities and contracts with NT PHN.
- b) Ensure that services are aware that the NT PHN website has links to a range of resources and information including business support packages that have been announced by Federal and Territory governments.
- c) Determine if any general information gaps exist through the conversations that may inform our ongoing engagement and communication strategies.

NT PHN provided contract extensions, as listed below, for some of the providers that were unable to deliver services in the Greater Darwin region.

Activities for 2020/21:

As per the current governance structure and according to the outcome of the DMG’s review, NT PHN endeavours to re-commission some of the previously contracted service providers to align with the available funds. As the NSPT activities aligns

	<p>with the seven key components of the Strengthening Our Spirits model, NT PHN will ensure that the activities are within the scope of the <i>National Suicide Prevention Trial – Transition Support Guidance</i> and <i>Supplementary Guidance – COVID-19 pandemic</i> documentation. NT PHN will provide funds to deliver key activities that were planned for 2019-20 but have been impacted by the COVID-19 restriction, such as the DYSPN and DRISPN Capacity Building projects, and the United Synergies training project. NT PHN will also explore evaluation opportunities for commissioned activities.</p>	
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Description of activity</p>	<p>Is this a new or existing activity?</p>
	<p>1. <i>Suicide Prevention Trial Coordinator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support NT PHN to transition contracted NSPT activities to be led by Danila Dilba Health Service. Danila Dilba is an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation providing culturally appropriate comprehensive primary health care and community services to Biluru (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) people in the Yilli Rreung (greater Darwin) region of the Northern Territory. • Organise and facilitate regular NSPT DMG and Working Group meetings • Maintain regular liaison with NSPT service providers and provide regular updates to NT PHN on service delivery challenges and opportunities • Provide support to all NSPT service providers to promote key activities and events. • Facilitate integration, coordination and collaboration among contracted NSPT service providers through systems improvement • Ensure all contracted NSPT activities align with the Strengthening Our Spirits model • Support the implementation of the NT PHN Monitoring and Evaluation Framework across all NSPT activities • Lead community engagement to establish and maintain collaborative relationships with key stakeholders and community groups, ensure community awareness and improve service utilisation 	<p>Existing activity</p>
	<p>2. <i>Darwin Youth Suicide Prevention Network (DYSPN) Capacity Building and Peer Support Project</i></p> <p>Location: Greater Darwin region Target group: Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth with a lived experience of suicide Key partners: Sabrina’s Reach for Life, Balunu Foundation and Stand-By Purpose:</p>	<p>Planned activity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and build capacity of the local Darwin Youth Suicide Prevention Network (DYSPN) to be able to respond and support young people via information sharing. • Provide peer support and mentoring via co-designed workshops for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths. • Direct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths to suicide prevention services. 	
	<p>3. <i>Darwin Regional Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network (DRISPN) Capacity Building Project</i></p> <p>Location: Greater Darwin region Target group: Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a lived experience of suicide Purpose: Capacity building project</p>	Planned activity
	<p>4. <i>United Synergies You Me Which Way Training</i></p> <p>Location: Greater Darwin region Target group: Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a lived experience of suicide Activity: Delivery of four You Me Which Way workshops</p>	Planned activity
	<p>NT PHN will be requesting to carryover 2019-20 unspent funds and utilise these funds together with 20-21 funding to support ongoing activities.</p> <p>NT PHN intends to use unspent funds in alignment with the Commonwealth direction for the final year of the trial, to extend service delivery for existing activities commissioned through the trial, as well as local service and program evaluations to identify priority activities, alternate funding streams and client transition plans.</p> <p>NT PHN will take recommendations from the DMG (which was established following recommendations from the NSPT Darwin Steering Committee in November 2019), comprising representatives from key local Aboriginal organisations (AMSANT and Danila Dilba) and the NSPT Working Group chairs, with respect to which services and evaluations should look to be recommissioned.</p> <p>Regular NT PHN commissioning processes will apply in the execution of contract generation and management.</p>	Existing activity

	A Carryover of funds request will be completed as part of the 2019-20 12-month report process.	
DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING	<p><i>Confirm what data are being collected routinely on services and consumers, including outcome measures.</i></p> <p><i>Identify any major ad hoc or one-off collections to be undertaken this financial year.</i></p> <p><i>Identify any major issues affecting compliance with reporting requirements and how these are to be remedied.</i></p> <p>The Primary Mental Health Care Minimum Data Set (PMHC MDS) will be used to capture data from any service providers commissioned to provide direct client services. NT PHN will work closely with commissioned service providers to ensure meaningful data is captured in relation to commissioned trial activities in line with the NT PHN Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Externally, NT PHN will work closely with the University of Melbourne to ensure meaningful data is captured in relation to other trial activities implemented, such as training and development/capacity building, and the successful engagement of communities.</p>	
RECRUITMENT AND WORKFORCE	<p><i>Identify issues that may affect recruitment and/or commissioning of services as necessary to progress trial activities.</i></p> <p>NT PHN recognise a barrier to the activity implementation can be recruitment and retention of staff within the NT. In recognition of this barrier, NT PHN trial activities have a focus on building capacity of the existing community, education and health workforce, and the community. This includes a strong focus on ensuring local Aboriginal workforce development and leadership.</p> <p>NT PHN recognise that commissioned service providers may require additional time to recruit to any positions created as part of commissioned trial activities, and this will be factored into decision making with consideration to the time limitations of the trial.</p>	
OTHER	<p><i>Identify any other major factors not covered above.</i></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	