

Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network

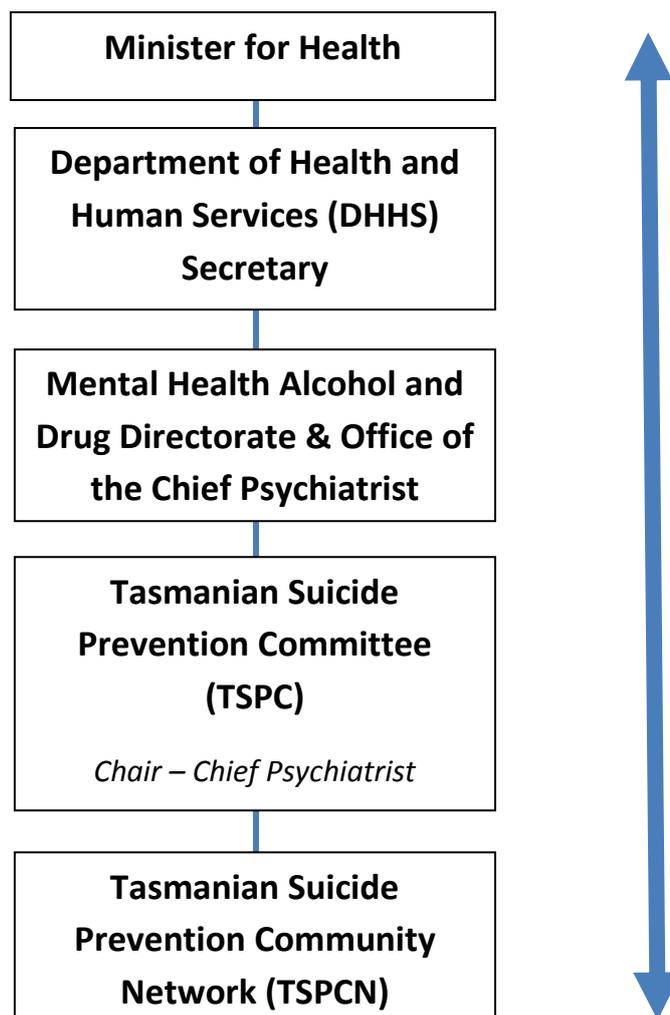
Terms of Reference



1 Background

The Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network (TSPCN) was established in 2012 to ensure broad-based statewide community engagement on suicide prevention as well as advocacy to, and collaboration with, the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Committee (TSPC) to achieve the best outcomes for Tasmanians in the area of suicide prevention. The TSPCN facilitates community engagement around suicide on behalf of the TSPC. The role and function of both the TSPC and TSPCN is outlined in the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategies 2016-2020.

Relationships Australia Tasmania is now contracted to auspice the TSPCN until 2020.



The work of the TSPCN is guided by the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-2020 and in particular by the expected outcomes of the strategy which are:

- **Create a responsive, coordinated health service system** for people experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviours and build and promote referral pathways to services and programs so people know how and where to get support.

- **Empower and support young people, families and communities** to respond to suicidal behaviours and the impact of suicidal behaviours.
- **Implement public health approaches** to reduce suicidal behaviour and increase community literacy about suicide and suicide prevention.
- **Ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of the Strategy.
- **Train and support health workers and other gatekeepers** to provide effective and compassionate care and support for people experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviours – *Suicide Prevention Workforce Development and Training Plan for Tasmania (2016-2020)*.

2 Purpose

Tasmanians have long been concerned about the growing impact of suicide in the community. The TSPCN provides opportunities for the Tasmanian community to share experiences and to influence decision making. The ongoing work of the network embraces the views and actions of all Tasmanians interested in or affected by suicide.

The TSPCN provides a platform for members to come together to discuss and advance issues of concern relating to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. The underpinning principles of the TSPCN is that suicide prevention is everybody's business and that strong resilient communities that are able to understand and speak about suicide issues will also have the capacity to address the problem.

The TSPCN will seek to identify gaps in services and supports and collaboratively work to address the gaps, and/or advocate for the gaps to be filled by member agencies, organisations, bodies and groups.

Where the TSPCN identifies needs that cannot be fulfilled within the resources of the member agencies, organisations, bodies and groups, the TSPCN will make recommendations to the TSPC.

3 Key functions

Key functions of the TSPCN are to;

- Share local knowledge and experience related to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention
- Provide input, where appropriate, to community action plans that have the capacity to reduce the rate and impact of suicide
- Lead and co-ordinate the mapping of existing services and supports for Tasmanian communities
- Work collaboratively to raise the awareness of suicide across Tasmanian communities
- Identify key issues within the Tasmanian community for action and advocate for change
- Identify needs and gaps in suicide prevention, intervention and postvention service provision
- Communicate identified suicide prevention, intervention and postvention issues and community need to the TSPC
- Provide input and or advice as requested to the TSPC
- To lead and coordinate the organisation, promotion and running of an annual Suicide Prevention Forum
- To organise, promote and deliver the annual Tasmanian Life Awards.

4 Membership

Membership is open to any Tasmanian individual or representative of an organisation or statutory body who has an interest in working towards reducing suicide in Tasmania.

Membership of the TSPCN is drawn from community, non-government organisations and agencies, service clubs, local government and State government throughout all regions of the State.

The TSPCN aims to grow the membership and ensure that all aspects of community have a voice on the TSPCN including those with lived-experience and those from high risk groups. Members and organisations may be invited to join the TSPCN where there is an identified benefit to both parties to ensure all relevant communities are represented.

5 Management of the TSPCN

The TSPCN is managed by a host community sector organisation, Relationships Australia Tasmania, who provide secretariat functions and Chair and Deputy Chair position. The host organisation's responsibilities include:

- Chairing the TSPCN
- Reporting to the TSPC on behalf of the TSPCN and ensuring discussions and feedback from the TSPC is made available to the TSPCN
- Advancing issues, concerns and requests to the TSPC for discussion and action
- Providing the TSPCN secretariat role

As agreed to by the TSPCN membership sub committees or working groups may be established for specific activities and or projects.

6 Meeting times

- The TSPCN will meet a minimum of six times a year
- The meetings will be held in the North, South and North West of the State
- Assistance from Members of the TSPCN may be requested to host meetings
- Meetings will be re-scheduled if there is insufficient interest from the network in attending

7 Meeting format

The format of the meeting may vary depending on how many members are attending, who is in attendance and the venue.

Information about the upcoming meeting including; agenda, venue, previous minutes, invited speakers and items for discussion will be circulated at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date. Attendees are asked to register to attend no later than one week prior. This ensures that an appropriate accommodation and catering can be arranged.

- Morning tea is made available on arrival, before formal proceedings commence.
- The Chair will officially open the meeting and welcome attendees, each attendee will be asked to introduce themselves (and any affiliations).
- The Chair will make note of any apologies and ask for any additional apologies to be noted. Opportunity will also be given to meeting attendees to add additional items to the meeting agenda. The minutes of the previous meeting will be tabled for comment and/or endorsement.
- The Chair will then progress the meeting as outlined in the agenda. This may include invited speakers from the community and/or from relevant organisations.
- All attendees are considered valuable members of the suicide prevention community and it is important that each is given opportunity to contribute to discussions.
- At the close of the meeting the date and location of the next meeting will be confirmed.
- Minutes will be circulated via e-mail.

8 Resourcing

Resourcing of the TSPCN is the responsibility of the host non-government organisation. However, in the spirit of collaboration resourcing may be sought from members of the TSPCN to host meetings, support community action plans and to assist with the annual LIFE Awards and Suicide Prevention Forum. There is no binding obligation on Members of the TSPCN to provide resources. Resources may also be sought from the TSPC to support community action plans and the activities of the TSPCN.

9 TSPCN representation

Views, opinions, advice and recommendations of the TSPCN are to be communicated to external parties by the Chair or his or her appointed representative.

10 TSPCN member responsibilities

Anyone can become a member of the TSPCN and there is no obligation to attend meetings and events unless they wish to do so. The roles and responsibilities of members of the TSPCN are to;

- Provide a commitment to suicide prevention in Tasmania
- Contribute information and ideas to the TSPCN
- Work collaboratively and creatively within the network to advance the objectives of TSPCN and the TSPCN Action Plan
- Respect the views and opinions of Members of the TSPCN
- Respect and support decisions made by the TSPCN
- Behave in an inclusive manner which is not disruptive to the discussion of the group. The Chair may ask a member to modify their behavior or leave the meeting for a period, should their behavior detract from the meetings progression or cause other members concern.
- Not to represent the TSPCN unless authorised to do so