

Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network Meeting

27 August 2026 | 12.30pm-2:30pm

East Launceston Bowls Club

Attendees:

Michael Kelly	RA Tas/Chair TSPCN	Lee Whitely	Rural Alive and Well
Tina Hale	RA Tas	Verity Quill	Women's Legal Service
Michael Walker	RA Tas	Laura Johson OAM	THEIRS
Katrina Lokan	RA Tas	Mark Davis	Community Member
Sandra Bulla	City Mission	Nicole Sanzhez	Migrant Resource Center
Steph Jones	City Mission	Alecia Bowman	Community Member
Hannah Jessup	City Mission	Cathryn Townsend	BlueLine Laundry
Warren Kohunui	City Mission	Sarah Guo	Launceston Medicare Mental Health
Natalie Sankey	Women Verterans Tas Network	Casey Musicka	Live4Life
Jiosha Chen	RA Tas	Danielle Horton	Mental Health Council of Tasmania
Catherine Chapple	Department of Health	Amanda Aitken	Mental Health Council of Tasmania
Elspeth Hickey	Department of Health	Jasmine Ellis	Headspace
Robyn Greaves	Department of Health	Laura Grattidge	UTAS
Charles Anderson	CORES	Michelle Suhr	SP Team – RA Tas
Allison Taggart	Tas TAFE	Betsy Paske	SP Team – RA Tas
		Louise Madden	SP Team – RA Tas

Apologies:

Mayor Matthew Garwood	Launceston City Council
Brad Saunders	Department of Health
Rebecca Lee	Department of Health
Shannan Maciejewski	Stride Mental Health
Andrea Barnes	Homebase

Agenda/Minutes

- Welcome and acknowledgement of country and lived experience. Acknowledgment of Rahnee Butterworth and her valuable contribution to suicide prevention.

TSPCN – Chair update

- Michelle and Betsy, two new members of the Suicide Prevention team, were introduced. Former team members, Loryn and Christina, were recognised for their work.

- Reflection of the *Messages of Hope* Book that has spent the last 12 months travelling around Tasmania, collecting contributions and capturing the essence of hope in suicide prevention.
- All attendees encouraged to write in the *Messages of Hope* Book before it is passed to its permanent home at The Peacock Centre, on World Suicide Prevention Day 10th September.
- Confirmation of minutes for meeting held on 14 May 2026.

Casey Musicka- Live4Life

- Casey provided an overview of the Live4Life program, a youth mental health program supporting rural and regional communities to recognise what they have in place and how to strengthen these, with the aim of reducing suicide. Partnerships include schools and councils, and the program is tailored to the community's needs.
- The program keeps young people at the centre and aims to reduce conflict and stigma, fostering youth leadership, decision making, and a shared language around mental health.
- The Break O'Day community is the first in Tasmania to benefit from the Live4Life program, with the aim to expand across the state.
- Casey encouraged attendees to check out the UTAS Break O'Day evaluation by Dr Laura Grattidge.

Amanda Aitken and Danielle Horton- Mental Health Council Tasmania

- Amanda and Danielle provided information about the new *Whatever the Weather* pilot project that was co-designed by young people for young people.
- It is based on the Initial Assessment and Referral Framework, guiding young people (15-24 year olds) to connect with the right support at the right time, based on their needs. It looks at mental health as a weather forecast.
- The goals of the project include increasing help seeking early, psychoeducation, mental health literacy, building awareness of protective factors and building a shared language that is not clinical.
- Danielle took us through the design process which was led by a group of 24 young people with lived experience, providing varying contributions around accessible language, aesthetics, and easy to understand content. Mental health professionals and parents were also consulted.
- [Whatevertheweather.org.au](https://whatevertheweather.org.au) and a brochure is now available.
- Amanda announced work on a Service Map will start in a couple of weeks and they are hoping to include capacity/wait times for services.

- Aiming to have 4 GP practices to pilot *Whatever the Weather* when talking to young people about mental health. Amanda welcomes any warm referrals for interested GP practices.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback [Whatever the Weather Stakeholder survey](#).

Laura Johnson OAM – Founder of THEIRS

- Laura provided an overview of THEIRS (Talk, Hear and Help, Educate, Inform, Refer and Support), a youth-led mental health and suicide prevention organisation based on Tasmania's North-West Coast, that has received national recognition.
- Passionate young people with lived experience running events throughout the year such as, monthly social gatherings and school talks. The events are dependent on community need with THEIRS taking a creative youth approach with accessibility and visibility, education, and community and connection at the forefront.
- Laura encouraged any services and organisations interested in partnering with Heywire, to get in contact with her.

Robyn Greaves – Department of Health

- Robyn announced the third implementation plan of the Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-2027 has been approved with hope to have it available by World Suicide Prevention Day (10th September 2026).
- The department has been drafting a Suicide Prevention Act which is an action under the implementation plan. The Act is to legislate what we already have, for example, the Suicide Prevention Strategy, Advisory Council, and the Tasmanian Suicide Register. It will also increase government accountability and suicide prevention capability across government agencies.
- In response to a question about how government agencies will get the expertise required to work on their responsibility in suicide prevention, Robyn confirmed agencies have signed up to the National Communications Charter, and they will build on this with one focus being on different levels of training for different level roles.
- Funding for grassroots training was questioned and Robyn confirmed that funding would be available, through the strategy rather than the Act, and the department has engaged CORES for rural and remote areas. A goal will be to have all training details available on the government website for people to look at what will meet their needs.

General Business and Open Discussion

- [Suicide Prevention Australia conference](#) will be held in Hobart 18-20 May 2027. Abstract submissions close 11th October 2026.
- World Suicide Prevention Day (10th September)- TSPCN hosting a community event in Salamanca Square 11am-12pm.
- 9th September- R U OK? Day conversation convoy at Market Square, Devonport 12pm-1.30pm then 10th September Civic Square, Launceston, 11am-3.30pm. Free BBQ lunch and activities at both events. [R U OK? Conversation Convoy](#) for more locations.
- Various [CORES](#) training available around the state.
- [Pride in the Park](#) 8th November 11am-2.30pm- Bicentennial Park Ulverstone.
- [Migrant Resource Centre](#) offering safeTALK training.
- New [Medicare Mental Health Centre Glenorchy](#) now open. Walk in or call for support. 388-388A Main Road, Glenorchy, 1800 595 212.
- TSPCN meeting [feedback](#) welcomed.

Meeting Closed: 2pm

Next Meeting: 4 November 2026- Hobart 12.30pm-2.30pm