



# Cabinet Business Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Adopting a New Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan and Establishing the Suicide Prevention Office

Portfolio                      Health

On 2 September 2019, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in May 2019, Cabinet approved the response to He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction (He Ara Oranga), and:
  - 1.1        accepted or accepted in principle 38 of the 40 recommendations, including the establishment of a Suicide Prevention Office;
  - 1.2        did not accept the recommendation of the Inquiry to set a target of a 20 percent reduction in suicide rates by 2030, but noted that the overall strategy of the government is to reduce suicide;
- 2        **agreed** to adopt the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, Every Life Matters;
- 3        **noted** that Every Life Matters will be launched as soon as possible following Cabinet approval;
- 4        **authorised** the Minister of Health to make minor technical and editorial changes to Every Life Matters prior to public release;

#### Establishment of a Suicide Prevention Office

- 5        **noted** that the establishment of the Suicide Prevention Office is already underway;
- 6        **noted** that the Director-General of Health proposes the Suicide Prevention Office will have the following functions:

##### Whole-of-government leadership for suicide prevention

- 6.1        provide whole-of-government leadership on suicide prevention;
- 6.2        promote collaboration and coordination between key organisations and groups on suicide prevention;
- 6.3        champion and oversee the implementation of Every Life Matters and support key organisations and groups to deliver on the actions in the Action Plan;
- 6.4        lead the implementation of national-level actions outlined in Every Life Matters and the development of any future suicide prevention Action Plans;

- 6.5 uphold the special relationship between Māori and the Crown under Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- 6.6 work with Māori and other relevant stakeholders to inform and influence policy and research that impacts on suicide prevention;

**Reporting on suicide prevention**

- 6.7 develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for Every Life Matters;
- 6.8 report on progress against all actions in the Action Plan;
- 6.9 report on the government's progress in reducing suicide in New Zealand;

**Suicide prevention research dissemination and guidance on best practice**

- 6.10 serve as a repository of suicide prevention research and information;
- 6.11 share best practice and research and provide guidance and quality assurance on suicide prevention;

**Funding, commissioning and monitoring of suicide prevention services**

- 6.12 fund and commission suicide prevention services delivered by the health and disability system;
- 6.13 manage contracts and monitor the performance of suicide prevention services delivered by the health and disability system;

- 7 **invited** the Minister of Health to provide annual updates to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on progress against the actions in Every Life Matters for the duration of the Action Plan.

Vivien Meek  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Ron Mark  
Hon Tracey Martin  
Hon James Shaw

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Health