

Appendix 1: Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025–2029 Quarterly update (July – September 2025)

Action	Access actions with completion dates	Agency	Status	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
1. Improve access to suicide prevention and postvention supports <i>[Impact: More people in suicidal distress or impacted by suicide can access the support they need, when they need it]</i>	Establish a suicide prevention community fund focused on populations with specific needs (eg, maternal, youth and rural communities) to complement existing Māori and Pacific funds (by 31 Dec 2025).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mental Health Foundation (MHF) has been identified as the successful partner to administer the fund. The Agreement with MHF is now in place and the implementation and establishment work is underway. Grants announcement and expressions of interest in mid-December 2025. The fund will then open for applications in February 2026. Projects will be delivered between May 2026 and June 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short period of time for delivery and can raise stakeholder expectations of ongoing funding that need to be managed. Unanticipated delays to open fund. But consider these can be managed as partner is experienced in administering similar community grants. 	
	Establish peer support roles in eight emergency departments for people presenting with mental health and addiction needs (by 31 Oct 2025).	Health NZ	Partially complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer support specialists have commenced in Auckland City, Waikato, Christchurch, Wellington, Dunedin, and North Shore Hospitals. Commencement of trial in Tauranga, Bay of Plenty, and Waitemata is getting underway. Procurement process for evaluation continues with contract negotiations with preferred provider. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The action to have 8 emergency departments with peer support roles by 31 October 2025 will not be fully in place until November 2025 due to some recruitment delays. 	
	Establish six crisis recovery cafés/hubs/services, which are regionally led and designed with communities, to respond to local and specific population group needs (by 30 June 2026).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis recovery cafés/hubs/services are being delivered in Counties Manukau, Papatoetoe, Whanganui, and Te Manawa Taki / Midlands. Negotiations are underway for crisis recovery cafés in Te Ikaroa/Central, New Plymouth, Gisborne, and in Te Waipounamu (the South Island). Whakatane, New Plymouth, and Auckland crisis recovery cafés will be operational by end of 2025. 	N/A	
	Evaluate the six crisis recovery cafés/hubs/ services (by 30 June 2028).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of the 6 crisis recovery cafes/hubs/services will begin once they are all established. 	N/A	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Access actions with completion dates	Agency	Status	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
	Improve suicide bereavement support services by improving access to and the timeliness of initial supports after a suicide death, and responsiveness to population groups (by 31 Dec 2028).	Health NZ	On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing suicide postvention services are renewing existing agreements through to 30 June 2026. A service improvement report and communication plan is in the final stages of approval. A national model of care is currently being developed alongside a review of the existing suicide prevention and postvention roadmap. Procurement of new suicide postvention services to take place in early 2026, to allow for enough time to establish and implement new services and for effective transition plans to be in place for whānau currently receiving support. New suicide postvention services planned to be in place from 1 July 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transition may result in some service disruption due to insufficient time to establish new services, and the potential loss of institutional knowledge, impacting both service users and referral pathways. There are time pressures and competing priorities to develop robust systems. Access to coronial information and effective sharing across new and existing providers is constrained by privacy protocols and information-sharing limitations. An information sharing agreement to be put in place with the Coroners Court for all suicide postvention services to be able to operate effectively. 	
	Increase visibility of mental health and addiction resources on the Heartlands service centre website (by 31 July 2025).	Ministry of Social Development (MSD)	Partially complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to the 1737 website added on Heartlands website. MSD has secured budget to insert a 1737 banner to the website to complete this action. ETA for 1737 banner to go live on website is 6 November 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time taken to secure budget has implications for awareness of resources 	
	Update operating procedures for when people in custody or care express suicidal ideation or intentions.	New Zealand Police	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action was completed in June 2025 	N/A	
	Refresh the organisational suicide prevention and postvention action plan (by 31 Dec 2025).	Department of Corrections	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intention is to finalise the refreshed plan by 1 January 2026. However, if not achieved the current plan will continue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective and timely consultation across multiple Corrections directorates is essential to ensure a well-informed and coordinated approach. While this collaborative process could influence delivery timeframes, it reflects Corrections' commitment to inclusive decision-making and robust outcomes. 	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Access actions with completion dates	Agency	Status	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
	Share and improve awareness of available suicide prevention resources in partnership with existing rural and primary industries stakeholders and partners (by 31 Dec 2025).	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring teams across MPI are aware of their obligations to deliver on the MPI action in the Action Plan, and that they have effective ways to embed its delivery in their usual stakeholder engagement. Noting that this is an ongoing commitment by MPI embedded in its usual work engaging with farmers, growers, and other stakeholder organisations across the regions. Developing processes for recording and reporting on delivery against the action. Working with external agencies to identify and source available suicide prevention resources that MPI staff can share and promote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential limitations on internal staff resources, or engagement with delivering on the action due to workload pressures and competing priorities (e.g. during adverse event or biosecurity responses). Potential lack of suicide prevention resources tailored to the primary industries. Dependant on external agencies' ability to respond and availability of high-quality resources. 	

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Workforce actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
<p>2. Grow a capable and confident suicide prevention and postvention workforce <i>[Impact: The capacity and capability across suicide prevention workforce is increased and communities, families and whānau are better equipped]</i></p>	<p>Expand suicide prevention training and guidance to strengthen existing resources; increase access to training; reach wider audiences; and better equip workforces, communities, families and whānau to support people who may experience suicidal distress (by 31 Dec 2025).</p>	Health NZ	On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New contracts and contract variations are out for signing with three workforce development partners to expand access to suicide prevention training, education, resources, and wānanga. • Expansion of the existing FLO: Pasifika for life Programme to deliver additional Manava Ola workshops in Te Waipounamu. • Expansion of the existing LifeKeepers Training Programme to deliver additional face-to-face and e-learning modules. • A new training programme to be developed and delivered to Asian mental health and addictions kaimahi working in Asian communities. • A new induction/refresher training programme to be delivered to the suicide prevention and postvention coordinator workforce. • A training package to be developed and delivered to the Kia Piki Te Ora workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some funding constraints but these are being worked through to assist with the initial development and then ongoing delivery of the four different components. 	
	<p>Establish national consistency for the suicide prevention and postvention coordinator workforce. This includes developing induction materials and best practice supports for suicide prevention and postvention coordinators and Kia Piki te Ora workforces (by June 2026).</p>	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing Suicide Prevention and Postvention Roadmap is under review. A planning session to update the roadmap and further refine the national model of care is scheduled. • Existing postvention service contracts are extended through to 30 June 2026, ensuring service continuity during the reconfiguration period. • Induction and refresher training will be provided for the Suicide Prevention and Postvention Coordinator workforce to establish and maintain consistency across Aotearoa to begin in November 2025. • A request has been made to have the suicide prevention coordinator agreements and funding transferred to Hauora Māori Services so that they can be managed alongside the suicide postvention coordinator services. • Planned review and refresh of existing service specifications and job descriptions for suicide prevention and postvention coordinator services across Aotearoa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued conversations and negotiations will need to be prioritised to ensure an information sharing agreement is in place with the Coroners Court for all suicide postvention services to be able to operate effectively. • Unanticipated delays in approval of the transfer of suicide prevention coordination services to Hauora Māori Services. This will impact on the ability to effectively achieve national consistency with suicide prevention and postvention coordination roles currently intertwined but managed separately. 	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Workforce actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
	Publish a national competency-based framework for a range of workforces and community settings such as community organisations, maraes, schools, and family and whānau members (by June 2026).	Ministry of Health	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to scope out the programme of work for this action. 	N/A	
	Develop and publish enhanced guidance for health professionals on assessing and supporting people who might be suicidal or experiencing suicidal distress (by June 2028).	Ministry of Health	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to scope out the programme of work for this action. 	N/A	
	Update practice guidance and supports for social workers and carers working with children and young people who might be suicidal or experiencing suicidal distress (by June 2026).	Oranga Tamariki	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to establish this project is underway. 	N/A	
	Promote the existing training module for frontline staff focused on early identification of clients who may experience suicidal distress (by 30 Jun 2027).	MSD	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing requirement to complete the Suicide Prevention module through induction learning for staff. Monitoring completion rate trends over the next 12 months to inform where promotion might be targeted for best results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational volume peaks may impact on ability for staff to complete training module. 	
	Collaborate with other agencies to support the development of prevention and practice knowledge for 37 diverse providers delivering Elder Abuse Response Services (EARS) to NZ Pākeha, Māori, Pacific, and Southeast Asian older people experiencing, or who may experience, elder abuse (by 30 June 2028).	MSD	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSD has commissioned work to build their evidence base on older people's experiences of abuse to better understand which types of interventions work best. MSD have also engaged with potential suppliers to do an evaluation of Elder Abuse Response Services (EARS). This evaluation will enable a better understanding of what types of services are available and how the services are working. This work will help inform future commissioning of EARS, including how to build prevention and practice knowledge. 	N/A	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Prevention and early intervention actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
3. Strengthen the focus on prevention and early intervention <i>[Impact: There are safer and more supportive environments, particularly for children and young people]</i>	Develop and implement a national alcohol screening and brief intervention programme (from 1 July 2025).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning is underway with engagement occurring across key stakeholders. Including establishing a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) reference group. Development of SBIRT training and support systems for healthcare and other professionals. Support rollout of SBIRT in different pilot sites. Development of SBIRT community models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential lack of buy-in with key stakeholders, which will be managed by proactive engagement to identify key pinch points. 	
	Invest in initiatives that denormalise alcohol in community environment (from 1 July 2025).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with Heartland RFU have been signed. Launch of Community Action Fund Request for Proposal (RFP) for alcohol harm prevention in Sep 2025. Launch of community support for alcohol policy and licensing RFP in Sep 2025. Partnerships with 12 rugby unions to denormalise alcohol in sports settings signed in Sep 2025. Launch of Pacific Fund RFP for alcohol harm prevention in Oct 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE resourcing to support RFPs, which will be managed by monitoring workloads closely 	
	Create safer physical environments in inpatient mental health and addiction facilities including progressing work to remediate and minimise ligature points (from 1 July 2025).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work progressing as part of improving facilities and creating safer environments. 	N/A	
	Launch a new wellbeing promotion campaign that can respond to significant events, with an initial focus on youth, but flexibility to target other groups based on needs (by 31 July 2025).	Health NZ	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wellbeing promotion campaign includes a community grants components that was launched on 7 October 2025 by the Mental Health Foundation, that has funding for the community-led activities that strengthen connection, resilience, and wellbeing, as well as training or workshops that build long-term wellbeing skills (you can find more information here: mentalhealth.org.nz/top-up-community-grants). This is one part of a wider grant programme yet to be announced 	N/A	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Prevention and early intervention actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
	Develop and implement a cross-government work programme focused on maternal mental health (by 31 Oct 2025).	Ministry of Health	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-government work programme to support maternal mental health under the Child and Youth Strategy approved by Child & Youth Ministers on 15 October 2025. Initial work programme is for Health agencies only but greater cross-agency focus over time Implementation underway, including development of a maternal mental health investment package. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resourcing for investment package uncertain. 	
	Invest in improved acute, respite, or crisis recovery services for young people in two regions working with local communities and young people to identify opportunities to enhance existing services (by 30 June 2026).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options are under development for the enhancement of youth acute respite services. It is anticipated that decisions will be made in December 2025. 	N/A	
	Develop and publish supplementary resources to support the implementation of the suicide media guidelines (by 31 Dec 2026).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first resource, <i>Safely reporting about suicide: a guide for media and digital creators and moderators</i> is now live and available as an electronic copy with print copies available in the first week of November 2025. 	N/A	
	Update available information and communication to ensure mental health resources are suitable for older people and their families and whānau, so they know where to go for support, and so that responders can better address the needs of older clients (by 30 June 2028)	Office for Seniors	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work commissioned to adapt, for New Zealand, an online learning tool for late life self-harm and suicide prevention. Pilot Testing with 50 non-professional users (NGOs, carers, etc). To then pilot test cultural inclusivity. Final report tool will then be completed, and journal article published. Followed by promotion of tool to potential users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of resources at Auckland University for this work. Getting ethics approval. Lack of availability of Māori and Pacific old age professionals to test tool. Availability of resources at Auckland University to undertake this work. 	
	Strengthen support provided to students experiencing self-harm and after a suicide through implementation of postvention and self-harm resources in schools (by 31 Dec 2027).	Ministry of Education	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalising postvention resource for schools. To make postvention and self-harm resource available online via education.govt.nz by December 2025. To develop implementation plan by March 2026. 	N/A	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Prevention and early intervention actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
	Promote appropriate communication about suicide using the updated postvention and self-harm resources for school staff and whānau (by 31 Dec 2027).	Ministry of Education	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation plan to be developed in March 2026. 	N/A	
	Promote use of the guidance and resources for engaging with clients who are experiencing distress through the digital internal noticeboard system for frontline service centre staff (by 30 Sep 2025)	Ministry of Social Development	Slightly delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative existing communication channels including MSD staff Intranet have been used. Communications sent to all staff including Contact Centre and Service Centres with a reminder and link to current MSD guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats and Security Employee Assistance Programme 1737, Need to Talk? confidential support number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital noticeboard systems are not currently active. Digital noticeboard systems may not be the best method of promoting this guidance and resource. MSD considering alternative methods. 	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Effectiveness actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
4. Improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention and our understanding of suicide <i>[Impact: More effective and efficient suicide prevention efforts are in place]</i>	Establish a cross-agency working group for monitoring progress against suicide prevention actions (by 30 Sep 2025)	Ministry of Health	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group established and first meeting held on 25 September 2025 	N/A	
	Evaluate the effectiveness of Vote Health suicide prevention services investment and explore changes informed by available evidence (by 30 June 2026).	Health NZ	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He Arotake suicide prevention and postvention review was completed in 2023 and the implementation of the recommendations is one of the actions within the new Suicide Prevention Action Plan. A review of all suicide prevention services was completed in April 2025 by an internal Health NZ working group (Hauora Māori Services, made up of clinical, lived experience and commissioning expertise). It was decided to continue funding the current suicide prevention services with changes made to service specifications to more accurately reflect the new Suicide Prevention Action Plan. Workplans for these services have been developed for 2025/2026 and closely align to the aims and objectives of the new Suicide Prevention Action Plan. As a result: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicide prevention services have been renewed with updated specifications to align with the Action Plan, through to 30 June 2027. Suicide postvention services will be reconfigured based on recommendations and upcoming guidance from the Wānanga Report. Current contracts have been extended only until 30 June 2026 to allow time for this reconfiguration work. 	N/A	
	Map the suicide prevention and postvention system and supports to identify gaps and areas for improvement (by 30 June 2026).	Ministry of Health	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health NZ is doing an initial mapping exercise of mental wellbeing supports to inform work on this action. 	N/A	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Action	Effectiveness actions with completion dates	Agency	Progress update	Commentary and key milestones	Risks	RAG Status
	Explore opportunities to improve existing data systems for suicide prevention, for example, improvements to quality and consistency and how data are shared with the Suicide Prevention and Postvention Coordinators (by 30 June 2027).	Ministry of Health	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to scope out the programme of work for this action. Work by Health NZ with the Coroners Court to establish a new agreement to share coronial data and strengthen information-sharing mechanisms across providers will support this action. 	N/A	
	Explore opportunities to build the alcohol harm evidence-base to inform system responses and improve tracking of alcohol-related suicides (by 30 June 2028).	Health NZ	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact has been made with the Suicide Prevention Office to initiate scoping for this work, and determine the shared milestones relevant to this action. 	FTE resourcing in both Health NZ and the Ministry of Health required to support this action, and this is being worked through with initial discussions planned in November 2025.	
	Evaluate the Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019–2029 and action plans to inform future strategy and work programme (by 30 June 2029)	Ministry of Health	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to scope out the programme of work for this action. 	N/A	
	Review available evidence and research along with insights from ethnic service providers to better understand Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) youth mental health, including suicide and self-harm hospitalisations (by 31 Dec 2025)	Ministry for Ethnic Communities	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review and Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) research underway. Findings to be published in early 2026. 	N/A	
	Work with the Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand to explore opportunities to improve the quality of available data regarding veterans in New Zealand to better understand veterans' mental health and wellbeing, including suicide and self-harm hospitalisations, to support further prevention actions (by 30 June 2027).	Veterans' Affairs	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions held with Veteran's Affairs Board to promote this work, understand their priorities and test initial thinking. Meeting with Social Investment Agency to determine what is possible within current IDI datasets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing datasets may be insufficient. IDI resource and prioritisation will be required for exploration. 	