

Appendix 1: Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025–2029 Quarterly update (October – December 2025)

| Action | Action and completion date | Agency | Previous status | Current status | Agency commentary and key milestones | Risks | RAG Status ¹ |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| <p>1. Improve access to suicide prevention and postvention supports</p> <p><i>Impact: More people in suicidal distress or impacted by suicide can access the support they need, when they need it</i></p> | 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 | Partially complete | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mental Health Foundation (MHF) is administering the fund, and establishment work is nearing completion. The fund is due to open for applications in February 2026. The first projects will be delivered between May 2026 and June 2027. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a minor risk of unanticipated delays to opening the fund, however we consider this to be manageable. | Amber |
| | 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 | Partially complete | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer support specialists will have commenced in all of the eight initial emergency departments (EDs) identified as part of the initial tranche, with Tauranga being the final one to launch, by the end of January 2026. Procurement process for evaluation is complete and the evaluation of round one is currently getting underway Prioritisation of a further three EDs to establish peer support roles in 2025/26 is well progressed with discussions with regions nearing completion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A - The initial eight peer support sites will be considered complete in the next quarter. | Amber |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Crisis recovery cafés (cafés) are now operational in Whanganui and Counties Manukau. Boosted cafés have also been launched in Whakatane and New Plymouth. New cafés are scheduled to be operational across quarter three in Christchurch, Dunedin and Gisborne. A further tranche of cafés are in negotiation with regions – these will be in Whangārei, Hastings and a South Island location (likely Invercargill or Nelson). These are scheduled for quarter four 2025/26. Funding for an additional two cafés has been prioritised. These are scheduled to come on stream in quarter one 2026/27 and will be in Waikato and Central Auckland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to stand up cafés in line with agreed timeframes remains challenging given the large amount of co-design that is required to ensure the model of care is tailored and appropriate to the location and service user group. | Green |
| | Evaluate the six crisis recovery cafés/hubs/ services (by 30 June 2028). | Health NZ | On track | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of the six crisis recovery cafes/hubs/services will begin once they are all established. | N/A | Green |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing suicide postvention service agreements have been renewed through to 30 June 2026. Work to reconfigure postvention services and ensure a coordinated, well-sequenced process for any changes, is underway. This includes drafting of a foundational governance document outlining Te Ahi Kā o te Whānau (National Framework) and ngā pou (pillars of suicide prevention and postvention concepts) that is in the final stages of completion ahead of the necessary approvals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reconfiguration may result in some service disruption due to time needed to establish new services, and potential loss of some institutional knowledge, impacting service users and referral pathways. A change process may be necessary for HNZ-employed kaimahi in order to fully implement the review findings, that would delay implementation. Access to coronial information and effective sharing across providers is constrained by privacy protocols and information-sharing limitations – noting the intention for an information sharing agreement to be put in place with the Coroners Court so suicide postvention services can operate effectively. | Green |
| | 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 | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to the 1737 website added on Heartlands website. A 1737 banner was inserted on the Heartlands website on 6 November 2025. | N/A | N/A |
| | 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 | Partially complete | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPI has compiled a list of suicide prevention and wider mental wellbeing resources and support services including input from government health agencies. In the next quarter (by March 2026) the list will be shared with MPI's on-the-ground staff and key industry partners for their reference and for sharing with primary producers and stakeholders. The list will also be added to MPI's corporate website and staff intranet. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list is wide ranging and is intended as a stocktake of available resources and services - users will need to identify the best options to refer people to. | Amber |

¹Green: on track to meet deliverable date and no substantial risks. Amber: missed deliverable date by <1 quarter/ will not meet deliverable date or minor risks likely to result in delay to delivery of action. Red: missed deliverable date by >1 quarter or significant risks/ issues impacting on delivery of the action.

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| | Refresh the organisational suicide prevention and postvention action plan (by 31 Dec 2025). | Department of Corrections | On track | Partially complete | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The refreshed plan was agreed in principle in December 2025 with consultation now underway across Corrections to finalise. Minor refinements will then be made before implementation is planned to start in March 2026. All actions remaining under the current plan have continued in the interim. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective and timely consultation across multiple Corrections directorates is essential to ensure a well-informed and coordinated approach. This has had a slight influence on delivery timeframes but reflects Corrections' commitment to inclusive decision-making and robust outcomes. While the plan has been agreed in principle, formal sign off is pending and anticipated in February 2026. Pending no further changes, this will enable official rollout in March 2026. The previous plan has remained in place, with several actions from the new plan already in motion. | |
| | Update operating procedures for when people in custody or care express suicidal ideation or intentions. | New Zealand Police | Completed | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action was completed in June 2025. | N/A | N/A |

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| <p>2. Grow a capable and confident suicide prevention and postvention workforce</p> <p><i>Impact: The capacity and capability across suicide prevention workforce is increased and communities, families and whānau are better equipped</i></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). | Health NZ | On track | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New contracts and contract variations are in place with workforce development partners to expand access to suicide prevention training, education, resources, and wānanga. Some work is already underway, with refresher training for the suicide prevention and postvention coordinators beginning at the end of 2025. The contracts include actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expand the FLO: Pasifika for life Programme to deliver additional Manava Ola workshops in Te Waipounamu expand the LifeKeepers Training Programme to deliver additional face-to-face and e-learning modules implement a new training programme for Asian mental health and addictions kaimahi working in Asian communities implement a training package for 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. | N/A |
| | 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). | Health NZ | On track | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresher training for suicide prevention and postvention coordinators began in November 2025. As noted in related 'Improve suicide bereavement support services' update above, existing postvention service contracts are extended through to 30 June 2026, ensuring service continuity during the reconfiguration period. Work is ongoing to consider the impact of change on HNZ employees working in suicide prevention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work and communication is required to support information sharing with the Coroners Court to ensure workforce can effectively perform its role. 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. | |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping work has progressed and the following indicative timeline has been identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an updated framework is expected to be developed by the end of March 2026 reviews of the report to be completed by May 2026 publication of the report in June 2026. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to allow time for consultation, particularly with Health NZ, to ensure framework is reflective of workforces and community settings | |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping work for this action is continuing and is expected to be completed in mid-2026. | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to establish this project is underway and the project is due to begin in February 2026. | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The suicide prevention learning module has been made into a series of three e-learning modules which is a compulsory component of the service delivery induction, ensuring all new staff complete this within six months of their initial onboarding. There is continued monitoring of completion rate trends 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 the training modules. | |
| | 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 | 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. Work is underway with a supplier to confirm the evaluation plan and approach. This work will help inform future commissioning of EARS, including how to build prevention and practice knowledge. | N/A | |

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| <p>3. Strengthen the focus on prevention and early intervention</p> <p><i>Impact: There are safer and more supportive environments, particularly for children and young people</i></p> | Develop and implement a national alcohol screening and brief intervention programme. Invest in initiatives that denormalise alcohol in community environment (from 1 July 2025). | Health NZ | On track | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) advisory group was established in November 2025 and is meeting monthly. A contract was signed in December 2025 to develop and implement alcohol SBIRT workforce training and support systems in healthcare and other settings. The contract commences in January 2026. Support for rollout of alcohol and other drugs SBIRT in seven pilot sites is underway. Three contracts are in place supporting the development of alcohol 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 any concerns. | |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Community Action Fund for alcohol harm prevention contracts are in place as a result of the September 2025 Request for Proposal (RFP). Community support for alcohol policy and licensing RFP has concluded with contract negotiations underway with the preferred supplier. Contract expected to be in place by the end of January 2026. Partnerships with 12 Rugby Football Unions and 5 National Provincial Unions to denormalise alcohol in sports settings signed in September 2025 and has seen the completion of an alcohol attitudes and behaviour survey report, commencement of work to assess the number of alcohol-free areas and zones within clubs and grounds, and planning for future activities. Nine Pacific Fund for alcohol harm prevention contracts in place as a result of the October 2025 RFP. Contracts are commencing in January 2026. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient FTE resourcing to support RFPs, which will be managed by monitoring workloads closely | |
| | 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 | 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 | N/A | N/A |
| | Develop and implement a cross-government work programme focused on maternal mental health (by 31 Oct 2025). | Ministry of Health | Completed | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cross-government work programme to support maternal mental health under the Child and Youth Strategy has been developed and was 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 is underway, including development of a maternal mental health investment package. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resourcing for investment package is uncertain. | N/A |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions on the location of these services are well advanced with the regions, with a decision imminent. | N/A | |
| | Develop and publish supplementary resources to support the implementation of the suicide media guidelines (by 31 Dec 2026). | Health NZ | On track | 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 both as an electronic copy and in print. | 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 | 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. | |

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| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postvention and self-harm resources for schools were published on the Ministry of Education's website in December 2025. A copy is available at: www.education.govt.nz/news/support-schools-responding-self-harm-and-suspected-suicide. An implementation plan is in development and expected to be finalised by March 2026. | N/A | |
| | 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 | On track | | 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) | MSD | Slightly delayed | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the digital internal noticeboard system not being available for the foreseeable future, alternative communication channels such as the MSD staff intranet and regular all staff updates have and will continue to be used to promote the use of guidance and resources. The alternative channels used reach all MSD staff and can also be targeted to leadership or specific operational teams. This allows for more flexibility of messaging and linking to relevant events/topics. | N/A | N/A |

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| <p>4. Improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention and our understanding of suicide</p> <p><i>Impact: More effective and efficient suicide prevention efforts are in place</i></p> | Establish a cross-agency working group for monitoring progress against suicide prevention actions (by 30 Sep 2025) | Ministry of Health | Completed | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group established and first meeting held on 25 September 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of engagement by agencies over time | 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 | Underway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work is informed by the He Arotake suicide prevention and postvention review that was completed in 2023. Workplans for Vote Health suicide prevention services have been developed for 2025/2026 and closely align to the aims and objectives of the <i>Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025–2029</i>. 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundaries for the parameters of the system and supports mapping are expected to be agreed in the next quarter. A high-level draft 'map' is expected to be developed by mid-April 2026, with advice provided to the Minister for Mental Health with details of the system mapping and recommended next steps in June 2026. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to allow time for consultation, particularly with Health NZ, to ensure mapping is reflective of existing system | |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is to scope out the programme of work for this action is continuing. 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 (as referenced in actions above). | 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 and Ministry of Health | On track | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions between Health NZ and the Ministry of Health have taken place to determine the scope and shared milestones for this work and are ongoing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTE resourcing in both Health NZ and the Ministry of Health required to support this action, and this is being worked through in ongoing discussions. | |
| | 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 | On track | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to scope out the programme of work for this action is continuing. | 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 | Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The literature review and Integrated Data (IDI) Infrastructure research have been completed. Building on this work, further activities are underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An academic peer review scheduled for January 2026, with drafting of the research report already in progress. Development of a plan for additional engagement with service providers and the wider community. | N/A | 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 | 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. | |