# **Suicide Prevention Action Plan Consultation Summary**

## Introduction

Suicide prevention efforts in New Zealand are guided by [these two documents](https://mohgovtnz.sharepoint.com/sites/moh-ecm-TemplateCentral/TemplateCentral/Suicide%20Prevention%20Action%20Plan%202019–2024%20for%20Aotearoa%20New%20Zealand%20(He%20Tapu%20te%20Oranga)):

* 1. Every Life Matters – He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata: Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019–2029 (He Tapu te Oranga)
  2. Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019–2024 for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Because the Action Plan finishes in 2024, the Ministry of Health has developed a draft action plan for the next five years. The Ministry is seeking feedback on the draft plan.

This plan aligns with the Government’s Mental Health priorities:

* improve access to suicide prevention and postvention support
* grow a workforce that is able to support those at risk of or impacted by suicide
* strengthen our focus on prevention and early intervention across the range of factors that can influence suicide
* improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention and postvention supports by improving research and data collection.

The plan has actions both for the Health sector and across different government agencies.

## Proposed Health-led actions

### 1: Improve access to suicide prevention and postvention supports

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Establish a suicide prevention community fund focused on populations with higher needs (for example, maternal, youth and rural communities) to complement existing Māori and Pacific funds. | By 31 Dec 2025 |
| * Roll out enhanced suicide bereavement supports. | By 30 June 2026 |
| * Establish and evaluate six crisis recovery cafés/hubs/services. | By 30 June 2028 |
| * Improve the cultural appropriateness of initial supports after a suicide death and Aoake te Rā, bereaved by suicide service. | By 31 Dec 2028 |

### 2: Grow a capable and confident suicide prevention and postvention workforce

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Increase access to suicide awareness training for communities, families and whānau. | By 31 Dec 2025 |
| * Develop induction materials and improve ongoing best-practice supports for suicide prevention and postvention coordinators and Kia Piki te Ora workforces. | By 30 June 2026 |
| * Publish a national competency-based framework for workforces, communities, and family and whānau members. | By 30 June 2026 |
| * Develop and publish enhanced guidance for health professionals on assessing and supporting people who might be suicidal or experiencing suicidal distress. | By 30 June 2028 |

### 3: Strengthen the focus on prevention and early intervention

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Invest in enhanced acute, respite or crisis recovery services for young people in at least two regions. | By 30 June 2025 |
| * Launch a new wellbeing promotion campaign that includes targeted resources for youth. | By 31 July 2025 |
| * Develop and implement a national alcohol screening and brief intervention programme that includes suicide prevention aspects. | By 30 June 2027 |
| * Develop and publish updated suicide media guidelines and supplementary resources for different types of media. | By 31 Dec 2028 |
| * Create safer environments in inpatient mental health and addiction facilities by progressing work to remediate and minimise ligature points. | By 30 June 2029 |

### 4: Improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention and our understanding of suicide

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Review the effectiveness of Vote Health suicide prevention services investment and implement any changes. | By 30 June 2026 |
| * Explore options for testing a real-time suicide data tool to provide timelier and improved suicide data. | By 31 Dec 2026 |

## Proposed cross-government actions

### 1: Improve access to suicide prevention and postvention supports

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Complete development of site-based, local postvention response processes at prison sites (Ara Poutama Aotearoa | Department of Corrections). | By 31 Dec 2025 |

### 2: Grow a capable and confident suicide prevention and postvention workforce

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Enhance the Elder Abuse Response Services workforce suicide prevention knowledge and practices (Ministry of Social Development). | By 30 June 2028 |
| * Update practice guidance and supports for social workers and carers working with children and young people who might be suicidal or experiencing suicidal distress (Oranga Tamariki). | By 30 June 2029 |

### 3: Strengthen the focus on prevention and early intervention

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Promote wellbeing and strengthen supports provided by schools to students experiencing distress or self-harm and after a suicide (Ministry of Education). | By 30 June 2026 |
| * Create safer environments in correctional facilities through work to remediate and minimise ligature points (Ara Poutama Aotearoa | Department of Corrections). | By 30 June 2028 |

### 4: Improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention and our understanding of suicide

| **Proposed action** | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- |
| * Support exploration of testing of a real-time suicide data tool to provide timelier and improved suicide data (Ministry of Justice). | By 31 Dec 2026 |
| * Improve the effectiveness of online coronial recommendations recaps (Ministry of Justice). | By 30 June 2029 |

## Outcomes and measures

Progress will be monitored with updates provided to the Minister for Mental Health every 3 months. Each year an update will be shared with Cabinet and put on the Ministry of Health’s website.  The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission | Te Hiringa Mahara will also monitor suicide prevention.

## How to take part

You can provide your feedback on the draft action plan by:

* sending us an email at [mhaengagement@health.govt.nz](mailto:mhaengagement@health.govt.nz)
* attending anin-person or virtualconsultation meeting – details will be made available on the [consultation page on the Ministry of Health website](file:///C:\Users\nwillis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\PMQAFG45\Draft%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Action%20plan%20for%202025%20–%202029%20Public%20consultation%20document%20|%20Ministry%20of%20Health%20NZ)
* answering the questions online on the [Ministry of Health’s consultation hub](https://consult.health.govt.nz/mental-health/suicide-prevention-action-plan-2025-2029-c/).

The consultation closes on Friday 1 November at 5pm.

**Consultation questions:**

1. Do you agree with the proposed actions for health and cross-government agencies? How could these actions be improved? Please include the reasons for your answer.
2. What other actions do you think could be included for government agencies to consider? Please include the reasons for your suggestions.
3. What do government agencies need to consider when implementing these actions to ensure what is delivered meets the needs of communities? Please include the reasons for your suggestions
4. Is there anything else you want government agencies to know about what is needed to prevent suicide?

Thank you for your feedback.