

Case study: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide data

A collaborative approach with the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP) to share suicide data



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases annual Causes of Death data including data on suicide deaths in Australia. *Life in Mind* provides summaries of this data in ways to support its use in policy and practice, which includes a breakdown of states and population groups.

Objectives

The Causes of Death data includes specific data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide. The way this data is communicated, must be culturally informed in order to support the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must have oversight into any data which involves our mob, including how data is presented and shared.

This collaboration has ensured a culturally-safe approach to reporting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide data.

Professor Pat Dudgeon AM, Director, CBPATSISP



Solutions

The CBPATSISP is Australia's leading voice on Indigenous suicide. The CBPATSISP collaborated with Everymind to present Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide data in a format that is easy to understand, and shares culturally-safe and clear messages about suicide, made available through the *Life in Mind* portal. Ensuring Indigenous governance over the way data is interpreted and presented upholds principles of Indigenous data sovereignty.

Benefits to policy and practice

By collaborating with Everymind, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide data is presented in a way which is both accurate and culturally safe, and highlights the disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous suicide. The collaborative data summary has been viewed 2,247 times since published (27 September 2023 until 13 June 2024).