# Regional approaches to suicide prevention.

In 2015, the Australian Government established 31 [Primary Health Networks](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/phn-home), also known as a P H N. Replacing the Medicare Local system, primary health networks are outcome focused and provide increased efficiency and effectiveness of health services for patients. Each P H N will respond to mental health and suicide prevention according to the specific needs of the region and community.

The Australian Government is committed to delivering an efficient and effective primary health care system through the establishment of each primary health network.

Evidence indicates that health systems with strong integrated primary health care at their core are both effective in improving patient outcomes and experiences and efficient at delivering appropriate services where they are needed most.

The primary health networks have a very broad, tactical and influential role in contributing to suicide prevention, early intervention and in reducing the stigma associated with suicide/attempted suicide and mental illness in Australia.

The primary health networks as part of their funding arrangements with the Commonwealth Department of Health are expected to undertake planning implementation and commissioning of regionally orientated community-based suicide prevention activities, through developing a more integrated and systems-based approach in partnership with Local Hospital Networks and other local organisations including Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services.

The Life in Mind portal will be a central collaborative source of additional information, evidence and support to the PHNs when exploring, planning and promoting suicide prevention activities in their regions.

Life in Mind also contains information about the national suicide prevention trials. More information about the trials can be found on the national [suicide prevention trials page](https://www.lifeinmindaustralia.com.au/programs-resources/regional-approaches/phn).