# National suicide prevention trials.

The national suicide prevention trials are part of a regional approach to suicide prevention in Australia.

In line with the National Mental Health Strategy and its renewed approach to suicide prevention, the Commonwealth Department of Health funded eleven primary health networks as sites for twelve National Suicide Prevention Trials. Each trial site will run for three years from July 1 2016 and receive Commonwealth Government funding of approximately $3 million.

The Primary Health Networks will administer this Government funding and, in consultation with the local government and community, decide the most effective services and programs to be implemented in their trial area.

Selection of each trial site was determined with consideration for infrastructure and services available within the region.

Factors considered for selection of trial sites included:

* their relationship with other suicide prevention activities within Australia
* the rate of suicide death within the region
* the Government’s election commitments to metal health and suicide prevention in the region; and
* participation in the Primary Health Network Mental Health Reform Lead Site Project for select sites.

Due to the complexities of suicide, a one-size-fits-all approach to suicide prevention is not suitable on a national scale.

The causes of suicide, as well as resources and services required to prevent it, are unique for each region and community of the selected trial sites. Each trial site will focus suicide prevention towards a specific priority population and administer prevention strategies reflecting community needs.

NSW is undertaking a suicide prevention research trial in four sites. Funded by the [Paul Ramsay Foundation](https://paulramsayfoundation.org.au/) with the support of the NSW Government and NSW Mental Health Commission, [LifeSpan](https://blackdoginstitute.org.au/research/lifespan) will be implemented using a staged roll out over a 2.5 year period.

The Black Dog Institute, managers of LifeSpan, have also been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to provide support to the 11 PHNs who are coordinating the 12 National Suicide Prevention Trials.