



New South Wales

Suicide Prevention Bill 2025

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to reduce suicide distress and the incidence of suicide in New South Wales by—

- (a) increasing the capabilities of government sector agencies in relation to suicide prevention, and
- (b) addressing the needs of populations disproportionately impacted by suicide, including through the implementation of culturally appropriate initiatives for Aboriginal people.

Outline of provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act.

Clause 3 provides for the dictionary in the proposed Act, Schedule 1.

Clause 4 sets out the objectives of the proposed Act.

Part 2 Suicide prevention plans

Division 1 Statewide plans

Clause 5 requires the Mental Health Commission to prepare and support the implementation of a Statewide suicide prevention plan and a Statewide Aboriginal suicide prevention plan (*Statewide plans*).

Clause 6 sets out the considerations the Mental Health Commission must have regard to in the preparation of the Statewide plans.

Clause 7 requires the Mental Health Commissioner to review each Statewide plan at least once every 5 years and when directed by the Minister.

Division 2 Agency plans

Clause 8 requires the head of certain government sector agencies to ensure the agency prepares and implements a suicide prevention plan for the agency (a *suicide prevention plan*).

Clause 9 sets out the matters a government sector agency must consider when preparing a suicide prevention plan. It also enables the regulations to provide that a government sector agency's suicide prevention plan may apply to another government sector agency.

Clause 10 requires the head of a government sector agency to ensure a review of the agency's suicide prevention plan be carried out at least once every 5 years and as provided for by the regulations.

Clause 11 provides that, if requested by the head of a government sector agency, the Mental Health Commission's functions include assisting the head of the agency by reviewing or giving advice about the agency's suicide prevention plan.

Division 3 Miscellaneous

Clause 12 sets out the reporting requirements regarding the implementation of Statewide plans or suicide prevention plans prepared by government sector agencies.

Part 3 Councils

Clause 13 establishes the Suicide Prevention Council and the Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Council (the *Councils*).

Clause 14 sets out the functions of the Councils.

Clause 15 provides for matters relating to the membership of the Suicide Prevention Council, including membership requirements, office term limits and entitlements.

Clause 16 provides for matters relating to the membership of the Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Council, including membership requirements, office term limits and entitlements.

Part 4 Information sharing

Clause 17 allows the Secretary to keep, or arrange for another person to keep, a register in relation to confirmed or suspected deaths by suicide, and sets out the purposes of the register.

Clause 18 contains provisions relating to the sharing of information in the register. It authorises the Secretary to—

- (a) disclose information in the register to a government sector agency or another entity for the purposes set out, and
- (b) disclose personal information or health information in the register to a government sector agency or another entity in specified circumstances, and
- (c) disclose information in the register to a Council for the purposes of the Council exercising its functions.

The proposed section also provides that the disclosure by the Secretary of information in the register may be subject to conditions and makes it an offence for a person to contravene a condition. It also allows the Secretary to publish information in the register in a form that ensures the identity of a person is not apparent and cannot reasonably be ascertained.

The proposed section also provides that, for the register, the Secretary may enter into agreements with a government sector agency or other entity, and sets out who may disclose information to the Secretary for the purposes of the register.

Part 5 Miscellaneous

Clause 19 provides for the review of the proposed Act.

Clause 20 enables the Governor to make regulations for the purposes of the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 Dictionary

Schedule 1 contains the dictionary that defines certain words and expressions used in the proposed Act.

Schedule 2 Amendment of Mental Health Commission Act 2012 No 13

Schedule 2 makes consequential amendments to the *Mental Health Commission Act 2012*.