



THIRRILI

Media Release

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Lack of Government Action in Funding Mental Health, SEWB and Suicide Postvention and Prevention Services for First Nations Peoples.

Thirrili expresses deep concern and frustration over the ongoing lack of funding and support from the government for critical postvention and prevention initiatives.

Despite numerous appeals and growing evidence of the effectiveness of suicide postvention and prevention services, the government has not taken sufficient action to ensure that these organisations and their programs are adequately resourced. The consequences of this inaction are severe and far-reaching. Suicide rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than double the national average and up to 7 times higher in some regions of Australia.

Insufficient funding for suicide postvention and prevention services casts doubt on the Government's stated dedication to the Closing the Gap agreement and priorities. The nominal growth in spending on First Nations health programs is now negative, with projected spending for 27-28 anticipated to be lower than that of 24-25. (1) To effectively deliver the crucial services we offer, we require a firm commitment to funding over the medium term to guarantee certainty and stability.

Thirrili provides essential support to First Nations individuals, families and communities affected by a traumatic incident or the loss of a loved one by suicide. Without adequate postvention support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people families, and communities are vulnerable to feelings of isolation, despair, and trauma leading to prolonged and more intense grief.

We acknowledge the funding commitment of \$2.4 billion which will be invested into benefitting the lives for First Nations people's and we acknowledge the tireless efforts and work of the Indigenous-led organisations who will take carriage in implementation of these initiatives.

Our Call to Action:

- 1. We urge the government to significantly increase funding for both postvention and prevention services.**
- 2. We urge the government to facilitate greater collaboration between Indigenous-led organisations and organisations that provide support to First Nations Peoples in the postvention and prevention spaces.**
- 3. We urge the government to commit to long-term support for essential services that deliver suicide prevention and postvention programs First Nations families and communities. Short-term, piecemeal funding is insufficient to address the complex and enduring nature of suicide among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people .**

(1) <https://www.croakey.org/documenting-funding-concerns-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-and-other-important-programs/>