



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Thirrili and StandBy Support After Suicide announce a partnership aimed at improving outcomes for Indigenous communities impacted by suicide.

July 12, 2024

Thirrili and StandBy Support After Suicide are pleased to announce a new partnership agreement aimed at enhancing support services for Indigenous communities across Australia. As part of this agreement, Thirrili will take over the management and delivery of StandBy's highly successful *You Me Which Way* program, which provides culturally sensitive support for those affected by suicide.

The partnership between StandBy and Thirrili represents a significant step forward in ensuring that Indigenous communities have access to the support they need during challenging times. Thirrili's deep understanding of Indigenous cultures and its commitment to mental health advocacy make it an ideal partner for the *You Me Which Way* program.

The *You Me Which Way* program, developed by StandBy in collaboration with Indigenous communities, provides the opportunity for First Nations community members to explore suicide and self-harm and its impacts on individuals, families, and communities. It is a facilitated discussion allowing for individual and group views to be shared in order to gain a greater 'community specific' understanding around suicide, its impacts and 'priorities for change' and is designed to promote healing and resilience.

Every life lost to suicide is a life that was valued and will be missed. Suicide is the fifth leading cause of death among First Nations peoples in Australia, and it stands as the primary cause of death for those aged 15-44 years. In Australia, more than 3,300 people take their own life each year. Research indicates that for every death through suicide up to 135 people may be impacted and ten or more are significantly impacted. Lowering the suicide rate is one of the targets the government has set to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

StandBy and Thirrili support and advocate for the need for more specialised cultural supports for First Nations people's families, individuals and communities who have been impacted by a loved one dying by suicide or a traumatic event.

"StandBy is proud to partner with Thirrili in the delivery of the *You Me Which Way* program," said Amanda Glenwright, General Manager of StandBy, a program of Youturn.

"This partnership represents a shared commitment to providing culturally sensitive support services for Indigenous communities affected by suicide. We are confident that Thirrili's expertise and dedication will ensure the continued success of this important program. StandBy recognises that Thirrili are best placed to deliver First Nations suicide postvention and as such, this community training program aligns well with Thirrili. It's a symbol of our commitment to genuine partnership."

"We are honoured to take on the management of the *You Me Which Way* program," said Kerry Colbung, Chief Executive Officer of Thirrili. "This program has made a significant impact on the lives of many Indigenous individuals and families, and we are committed to upholding its values and objectives. Through this partnership, we aim to strengthen the support network available to Indigenous communities, fostering healing and resilience."

StandBy will work closely with Thirrili during the transition period to ensure a smooth transfer of management and operations.

About Thirrili: Thirrili is a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing. As an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation, we recognise the strengths of our communities and our strong responsibility to support communities in the aftermath of suicide or unexpected fatal incidents. We uphold protective boundaries for individuals, families and communities that allow self-determination in their ways of bereavement and healing.

Thirrili – Funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

About StandBy Support After Suicide: StandBy Support After Suicide is a national, community-based program that provides support to people bereaved or impacted by suicide. In Australia, more than 3,300 people take their own life each year. Research indicates that for every death through suicide 135 people are impacted and ten or more are significantly impacted. StandBy works with individuals, families, and communities to provide coordinated support and practical assistance tailored to individual needs. In NSW, NT, QLD and VIC StandBy also offers additional support

via a peer workforce and specialised suicide bereavement counsellors. Call 1300 727 247 for access to free support Australia-wide.

StandBy – an initiative of Youturn jointly funded by the Australian Commonwealth, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland and Victorian Governments.

For media inquiries: For further details regarding the *You Me Which Way* program and the collaboration between StandBy and Thirrili, feel free to reach out us.

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