



# **Lifeline Australia** **Submission**

**Response to the Mental Health and Suicide  
Prevention Agreement Review – Interim Report**

**July 2025**



## Response to the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Review – Interim Report

Lifeline Australia warmly welcomes the release of interim report from the Productivity Commission into the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement. The recommendations offered by the Productivity Commission focusing on embedding suicide prevention within a whole-of-government approach, improving lived experience engagement, and enhanced governance will be instrumental in the ability of the Agreement to achieve its intended outcomes of broad scale national reform to transform and improve Australia's mental health and suicide prevention system. We briefly address these areas below.

As Australia's largest provider of crisis support and suicide prevention services, we commend the recommendation to renew the Agreement with an enhanced opportunity to focus on suicide prevention through a specific schedule aligned with the recently released National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This approach will help to ensure that suicide prevention efforts reflect the improved understanding of the complex factors that contribute to suicidal thinking. It will ensure that known social determinants of suicide including health, employment, housing, education, social connection and more are addressed. And as such, it will enhance the effectiveness of Australia's suicide prevention Agreement. Noting the tragic and disproportionate loss of life to suicide among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Lifeline Australia particularly welcomes the inclusion of a specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing through the inclusion of a specific schedule.

Lifeline Australia endorses the Commission's recommendation that the National Mental Health Commission is tasked with monitoring and reporting on progress of the Agreement. We further submit that the National Suicide Prevention Office would be well placed to monitor progress against the Suicide Prevention Schedule, given their oversight of the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Lifeline Australia endorses the recommendation of a transparent, well-resourced co-design process with lived experience as vital to building a strong foundation for the Agreement. To be successful, Lifeline Australia underscores the importance of ensuring clarity of purpose for lived experience engagement and participation, with scope clearly communicated to those involved. It is also vital that those overseeing participatory processes have the right capabilities and are operating in an enabling environment where lived experience contributions can be implemented. We also endorse the recommendation supporting a greater role for people with lived experience in governance of the Agreement and note that it is likely to increase confidence in the Agreement and will be a facilitator in a successful co-design process of the Agreement.

Lifeline Australia looks forward to implementation of the Productivity Commission recommendations into the National Agreement, with benefits ultimately flowing to those Australians engaging with mental health and suicide prevention products and services.