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## Submission to the **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Review Interim Report**

### **About Deepend Canberra Region**

General practice in the Deepend, is general practice working with people who are socially marginalised and multiply disadvantaged. That includes caring for people with both mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues.

Our membership includes general practitioners, nurses, a psychiatrist and other professional groups.

### **Our response to the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Review Interim Report**

We have read the report and find that the recommendations are very sensible and we support them.

One Information request we wish to reply to:

#### 4.1

*The PC is seeking views on whether there should be an additional schedule in the next agreement to address the co-occurrence of problematic alcohol and other drug use and mental ill health and suicide.*

Deepend Canberra strongly supports the inclusion of an additional schedule in the next Agreement.

We support this for reasons:

1. Because of the significant association between AOD and mental illness. Between 15 and 20 percent of suicides have a correlation with AOD (Alcohol and other drug users - Suicide & self-harm ... <https://www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/population-groups/aod-users>, accessed 8/7/25).
2. And the correlation between AOD and mental illness is over 50% (Alcohol and other drugs and mental health <https://adf.org.au/resources/health-professionals/aod-mental-health/>, accessed 8/7/25).
3. And clinical our experience shows there is poor dual diagnosis management within and by mental health services.

Thank you for the opportunity to input to the development of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely