



Media Release



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia
TAS Branch



Pharmaceutical
Society of Australia



Curtin University

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For immediate release

Tasmanian pharmacists to be given suicide prevention training

Pharmacists in Tasmania will be offered training and other resources to support patients with suicidal signs or symptoms. The training follows a new partnership between the Black Dog Institute and Primary Health Tasmania, supported by The Pharmaceutical Society Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Curtin University.

The partnership will offer advanced suicide training for pharmacists to complement other mental health training. The partnership aims to provide training to around 100 pharmacists from the approximately 160 community pharmacies registered within Tasmania.

Anyone interested to sign up can find out more [here](#).

The Suicide Prevention Training for Pharmacists aims to increase pharmacists' skills and confidence in talking with those in distress and understanding various referral options.

The training forms part of a holistic approach to suicide prevention. The Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan approach to suicide prevention – a model that combines nine evidence-based strategies – involves training key community members to develop a “safety net” for vulnerable people in a community.

“The Black Dog Institute was delighted to be approached by Primary Health Tasmania to lead this innovative project and address the needs to support pharmacists,” says Janey McGoldrick, Head of Implementation, Black Dog Institute.

“This training will help them reach out to those customers they are concerned about and know they are giving the best practice advice and support.

“Many pharmacists seek their own training in this area but now there will be sector-wide advice and skills on offer. We want to support them and their whole team to feel confident they can offer the best help possible.”

The training forms part of the project that is exploring the role of pharmacists in suicide prevention, and is already gaining interest from other states exploring similar schemes. Dr Joanna Moullin from Curtin University is leading the research and evaluation aspects of the project.

Primary Health Tasmania (Tasmania PHN) supports the project as part of its ongoing work for the Australian Government's National Suicide Prevention Trial, which aims to develop the ability of local communities to recognise and respond to the risk of suicide.

Primary Health Tasmania spokesperson Martina Wyss says the training program is one of a number of statewide activities sitting alongside community-led activity at the three Tasmanian trial sites.

"Pharmacists are seen as approachable and are well respected service providers in the community," she says.

"Their regular interactions and often long-standing relationships with various members of the community can yield vital information about people's lives and wellbeing."

More information about Tasmania's involvement in the National Suicide Prevention trial is available online at www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/suicide-prevention-trial-tasmania/

- ENDS -

Black Dog Institute and Primary Health Tasmania do not offer crisis, or emergency support.

Your regular GP/doctors surgery should always be your first point of call if you need medical or mental health care

In an emergency, call Triple 000 for Ambulance, Fire or Police

For health advice on health services open at night, public holidays and weekends, visit the [Tas After Hours website](#).

The following helplines are also available for urgent assistance:

- Mental Health Services Helpline (DHHS) 1800 332 388
- Lifeline Crisis Help 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
- Drug and Alcohol Counselling (DHHS – Afterhours) 1800 811 994
- Poison Information Centre 13 11 26