

Policy Concordance: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health, Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention

TASMANIA



The Centre of Best Practice in
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Suicide Prevention



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In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention, government policies are critically important because they influence what services are available and how they are delivered – with enormous consequences for people’s lives.

This Concordance is a collection of guides to policy and decision-making at national and State/Territory levels. It includes:

- profiles of key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, government departments and agencies and other organisations with an important role in policy processes
- formal policies that describe governments’ commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, and how they intend to deliver on them
- other essential documents – for example community submissions to policy processes and the most influential research reports.

The Concordance is for anyone seeking information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention policy in any part of Australia, including government and ministerial policy staff, researchers, service providers and community organisations. The focus is on current

policy documents. However some older publications are included where they have been particularly influential, and policies and strategies are included after their intended finish date if they have not yet been replaced and are still guiding practice.

Social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention are complex and multi-faceted and do not fall neatly into a single policy domain. This Concordance focuses on the organisations, processes and policies most directly related to these issues, acknowledging that important policy work also takes place in other domains – including education, justice and family services. The Concordance is a living resource and the CBPATSISP welcomes suggestions for additional inclusions.

This section of the Concordance focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention policy in Tasmania. Chapters on the other States and Territories, and national policy, can be found at cbpatsisp.org.au.

Key organisations

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Organisation	Purpose
Tasmanian Aboriginal Council	TAC represents the political and community development aspirations of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. The TAC was developed in the early 1970s and has been funded by the federal government since 1973. TAC is the Tasmanian affiliate of NACCHO and Member of the Coalition of Peaks.

Government

Organisation	Purpose
Tasmanian Department of Health: Mental Health	Statewide Mental Health Services delivers care to Tasmanians with mental health conditions. It provides services in-patient hospital and community services, and partners with community sector organisations to deliver support services to people with mental illness.
Primary Health Tasmania	Primary Health Tasmania plans and commissions primary health services across Tasmania, including mental health, suicide prevention and social and emotional wellbeing services
Aboriginal Affairs Partnership Division	<p>The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is one part of the Aboriginal Affairs Partnership Division, which sits in the Division of Communities, Partnerships and Priorities within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p> <p>The Office works in partnership with Aboriginal organisations and people to deliver Government funding and services, providing an Aboriginal voice to guide and advise the Tasmanian Government on policy issues affecting Tasmanian Aboriginal people and embed Aboriginal led co-design processes and Aboriginal knowledges across all government agencies. It oversees and coordinates the Tasmanian Government's Aboriginal Affairs agenda, including Truth-Telling and Treaty processes and Closing the Gap commitments, to improve social, cultural and economic outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal People.</p>

Policy documents

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Date	Title	Organisation	About
2021	Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty: Report to Premier Peter Gutwein	Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet	<p>Report from consultations with Tasmanian Aboriginal people about their thoughts on and aspirations for treaty, truth-telling and reconciliation and to identify possible pathways towards these goals. Themes that emerged included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truth-telling, including possible format, purpose and content;• Treaty, including readiness for treaty, identity of parties, possible models, purpose, content and legal status;• Identity and lateral violence;• Land and sea, including the return, protection and management of land and waterways, and cultural fisheries;• Cultural heritage and practices;• Education and capacity building;• Language, particularly language retrieval;• History, including colonisation, dispossession, assimilation and government policies;• Intergenerational trauma, including the past, present and future impacts of colonisation and dispossession on Tasmanian Aboriginal people; and• Terminology, for example with respect to 'reconciliation' and Aboriginal/Indigenous/First Nations/ First Peoples.

Whole of community

Date	Title	Organisation	About
2020-2025	Rethink 2020 - Tasmania's strategic plan for mental health	Tasmanian Department of Health	<p>Rethink 2020 is Tasmania's strategic mental health plan, with renewed focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suicide prevention • improving coordination of services for people with severe and complex mental illness • improving the physical health of people with mental illness • providing 'stepped care' mental health services best suited to a person's needs. <p>The Rethink 2020 Progress Review and Update 2022-23 highlights the progress made in Tasmania under the Rethink Implementation Plan 2022-23. It outlines achievements in implementing Rethink 2020 Reform Directions and the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy Priority Actions. A current implementation plan is also available: Rethink 2020 Implementation Plan 2023-24</p>
2023-2027	Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-2027	Tasmanian Department of Health	<p>This Strategy identifies five suicide prevention priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enabling collective action to prevent the onset of suicidal behaviour and respond early to distress 2. Delivering compassionate and connected services that meet people's needs 3. Empowering people and communities to lead suicide prevention action 4. Developing a skilled, supported and sustained workforce 5. Enhancing whole-of-government mechanisms to coordinate Tasmania's suicide prevention approach <p>Aboriginal people are acknowledged as a priority population but their specific needs are not addressed in this strategy.</p>
2022-2026	Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	Tasmanian Government, Commonwealth Government	<p>The Bilateral Schedule is the Tasmanian agreement under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, which sets out the shared intention of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work in partnership to improve the mental health of all Australians, reduce the rate of suicide toward zero, and ensure the sustainability and enhance the services of the Australian mental health and suicide prevention system.</p> <p>The Bilateral Schedule include Tasmania-specific commitments including funding allocations and sites for service expansion.</p>