

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUICIDE PREVENTION ADVISORY GROUP

KEY PRINCIPLES

FOR THE FUNDING OF SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTIVITY FOR
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE.

TAKING ACTION TO TACKLE SUICIDE

The following key principles have been endorsed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Advisory Group on 31 January 2012.

Applications for funding for suicide prevention activity targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities, through the *Community Prevention for High Risk Groups* element of the *Taking Action to Tackle Suicide* package, will be assessed against these key principles. Other suicide prevention programs are urged to consider these Principles when assessing project funding.

Key Principles

Projects need to demonstrate:

- Community control and empowerment: projects should be grounded in community, owned by the community, based on community needs and accountable to the community.
- Holistic: based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definitions of health incorporating spirituality, culture and healing.
- Sustainable, strength based and capacity building: projects must be sustainable both in terms of building community capacity and in terms of not being 'one off'; they must endure until the community is empowered. For example provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforces and community members with tools for awareness, early identification and for responding to self harm issues within the community.
- Partnerships: projects should work in genuine partnerships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and other providers to support and enhance existing local measures not duplicate or compete with them. Funding applications need to demonstrate a record of genuine community and stakeholder/ provider consultations and a track record of community empowerment.
- Safe cultural delivery: projects should be delivered in a safe manner.
- Innovation and evaluation: projects need to build on learnings, try new and innovative approaches, share learnings, and improve the evidence base.
- Community Promotion and education: projects should share learnings and these should be promoted in other communities.