

# INFORMATION SHEET



## The National Suicide Prevention Trial Evaluation Data Collection

### Who we are

The project team is led by Professor Jane Pirkis, Director of the Centre for Mental Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Other team members include Dianne Currier, Kylie King, Adel Cox, Meredith Harris, Matthew Spittal, Andrea Phelps, Jo Robinson, Bridget Bassilios, Greg Carter, Professor Jane Gunn, Jo-Ann Atkinson, Phillip Burgess, Annette Erlangsen, Kairi Kolves, Karolina Krysinska, and Andrew Page.

### What is this research about?

The Department of Health is funding Primary Health Networks (PHNs) in 12 areas across the country to try and improve services for people who are experiencing thoughts of suicide or who have recently made a suicide attempt. This program is called the National Suicide Prevention Trial.

PHNs are local primary care organisations funded by government to improve health services and ensure people receive the right care in the right place at the right time. As part of the Trial, PHNs are setting up a range of new services and community activities to recognise and support people who are at-risk for suicidal behaviour.

The University of Melbourne is evaluating the services being set up in the trial to find out what types of services are most helpful for which people. That information will help government and PHN's plan future services.

The most important source of that information is the people who are using the services. These services can include counselling/psychological therapy, web-based programs or a health provider organising your access to multiple services to improve your overall wellbeing.

### What am I being asked to do?

If you agree, the person providing you with this service will collect some additional information - the National Trial data. This will be about the focus of your treatment, your recent service use, previous suicidal thoughts or self-harm, and any current thoughts about suicide you might be experiencing.

We would then like to add your National Trial data to the routine data that you have already agreed to your service provider collecting (the Primary Mental Health Care minimum dataset) so we can have the complete picture of your wellbeing and service use.

That linking will be done by Strategic Data, an independent data management group who manage the minimum dataset for PHNs. Your name and any other identifying information will

be removed from the linked dataset and it will then be provided to the University of Melbourne researchers.

Finally, we may want to contact you and invite you to do a brief online survey where you will have the chance to express your views and opinions of the services you have used in your own words. To do that, we need your permission for your contact details and minimum dataset ID number to be used by Strategic Data to send you a link to the web-survey.

### **What are the possible benefits?**

It is expected that the findings from this project will inform future suicide prevention service planning in a manner that will improve the delivery of services to people at-risk for suicidal behaviour. This will benefit not just the wellbeing of those individuals, but their families and carers and ultimately also help to reduce the number of lives lost by suicide in Australia.

### **What are the possible risks?**

Some people may find that being asked questions about their past and current self-harm feelings, actions and/or treatment upsets them. However, previous research about suicide and mental health services, has found that these reactions have usually passed quickly. Many people in previous studies have said they felt proud and happy to be able to contribute to improving services.

Your service provider will be able to offer support if these feelings come up during the session. Otherwise, if you are feeling upset, you might want to talk to your family or friends or contact your service provider or GP. You can also call Lifeline on 13 11 14 (toll-free). The project team also available to help you obtain support. You can call us on 03 8344 0704 or send an email to [dianne.currier@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dianne.currier@unimelb.edu.au). If we become concerned about you, we will ask your permission to contact our team psychologist who will call you and check that you are OK and help you obtain support.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Participation in this project is voluntary. You do not have to provide the National Trial data in order to receive any services.

You can also choose to only provide the National Trial data and not be contacted about the survey.

If you change your mind about participating, you are free to withdraw from the project at any time by telling the person who is collecting the data you do not want to continue. Any information you have provided up to that point will be provided to the researchers and possibly used in the study.

### **Will I hear about the results of this project?**

A report of the project outcomes will be released publicly. Outcomes will also be presented via conference presentations and publication of journal articles, subject to Department of Health approval.

## **What will happen to information about me?**

If you agree, Strategic Data will link your National Trial data with the minimum data set, then remove your name and other identifying information, including your minimum dataset ID number, before they send it to the University of Melbourne researchers. At the University, that information will be held under password protection and only members of the evaluation team will have access to it.

We will protect the confidentiality of your data, subject to any legal requirements. When the evaluation is written up, data from all people who contributed their information will be combined to ensure that no-one can be identified. We will also present the results in summary form in journal articles and conferences.

We will store the information collected for at least five years after the study, but none of your information will be identifiable or be able to be traced back to you.

## **Who is funding this project?**

The project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. This research is part of a larger project, which also includes obtaining data from other sources (document reviews; observation of PHN workshops and meetings; consultations with service providers, suicide prevention professionals/organisations, and community organisations) in order to achieve the project aims.

## **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information, or have concerns, about the evaluation please contact the project coordinator: Dr Dianne Currier ([dianne.currier@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dianne.currier@unimelb.edu.au) +61 3 9035 7557) or the Responsible Researcher, Professor Jane Pirkis ([j.pirkis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.pirkis@unimelb.edu.au), +61 3 8344 0647).

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: [HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

## **CONSENT [ Asked by the service provider]**

*[National Trial data collection and linkage to the PMHC minimum dataset]*

“Have you read the background information and do you agree to provide additional information for the National Trial data, for that data to be linked with the routine data collected by me [service provider], and for the University of Melbourne researchers to access the linked dataset. That dataset will not include your name or any other identifying information.”

- **Yes**
- **No**

**If ‘YES’ to the above, ask the following:**

*[Contact details for survey invitation]*

“Do you agree that your contact information, including your minimum dataset identifying number, can be provided to Strategic Data so they can invite you to participate in the consumer survey.”

- **Yes**
- **No**