

# Terms of Reference for The Ministerial Committee on Suicide Prevention

## Background

Cabinet established the Ministerial Committee on Youth Suicide Prevention in 1999 to direct the implementation of *New Zealand Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy*. This strategy has now been replaced by the *New Zealand Suicide Prevention Strategy 2006-2016* (the Suicide Prevention Strategy), which broadens the focus to all age groups. To reflect this change, the Committee has been renamed the 'Ministerial Committee on Suicide Prevention' (i.e. 'Youth' has been deleted from the title).

The overall purposes of the Suicide Prevention Strategy are to:

- reduce the rate of suicide and suicidal behaviour
- reduce the harmful effect and impact associated with suicide and suicidal behaviour on families/whanau, friends and the wider community
- reduce inequalities in suicide and suicidal behaviour.

Effective implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy and associated actions plans requires intersectoral commitment from all government agencies whose work impacts in some way on suicide prevention.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Ministerial Committee on Suicide Prevention is to:

- provide visible high level commitment to suicide prevention and the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy
- provide leadership of sectors that can have an impact or influence on suicide prevention
- foster greater coordination and collaboration between government agencies involved in suicide prevention activities and reduce duplication
- prioritise and facilitate additional funding or resources where or when required
- monitor and oversee progress on the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy and its associated Action Plans.

## Membership

- Associate Minister of Health (Chair)
- Minister of Education

- Minister for Social Development and Employment
- Minister of Youth Affairs
- Minister for ACC
- Minister of Internal Affairs
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Police
- Minister of Corrections
- Minister of Maori Affairs
- Minister of Pacific Island Affairs
- Minister of Women's Affairs.

### **Meeting frequency**

The Ministerial Committee on Suicide Prevention will meet as required at the invitation of the Chair.

### **Administration**

The Ministry of Health, as the lead agency for coordinating the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy, will provide administrative support services for meetings of the Ministerial Committee on Suicide Prevention. This includes drafting agendas, background papers and minutes of meetings.

### **Relationship to the Inter Agency Committee on Suicide Prevention**

Supporting the Ministerial Committee on Suicide Prevention is the Inter Agency Committee on Suicide Prevention. The Inter Agency Committee on Suicide Prevention is chaired by the Ministry of Health and is comprised of officials from key government agencies whose work impacts in some way on suicide prevention. Its role is to facilitate cross sectoral coordination and to support the implementation the Suicide Prevention Strategy at a government agency level.