

Best Practice Model

Strategies to improve your school's capacity to respond to a death by suicide



School Suicide Postvention Response Plan

- The school has a detailed Suicide Postvention Response Plan with contact phone numbers, key roles and responsibilities outlined
- The plan is aligned with system protocols and emergency management guidelines
- The plan is reviewed annually

Professional learning

- School staff have opportunities to build capacity via professional learning in suicide prevention, self harm, grief and loss, mood disorders, social media, and other broader mental health issues
- Teachers and wellbeing teams meet regularly to share learning and practice

Parent/carer Engagement

- Parents and carers are provided with relevant and evidence based information via a range of mediums including website, newsletters, fact sheets and parent forums
- Parents/carers have access to contact details of local support services and available resources
- Families are involved in the school community and have a voice

Partnerships with local services and agencies

- The wellbeing team has regular contact with services and agencies including tertiary mental health
- Schools access local services to support professional learning
- Schools promote information to students and families regarding local services and agencies
- Schools have clear referral processes with agencies

Partner with other schools

- The school connects with other schools in the area to share resources in suicide response and recovery
- Schools locally work together to maximise professional learning opportunities
- Wellbeing teams work collaboratively with other schools

Intervention strategies for at risk young people

- The school has clear referral pathways internally and to external support agencies and services
- Teachers are clear about identifying risk and school referral processes
- The school holds student support group meetings and uses return to school support plans
- The school holds case management meetings with external agencies present

Evidence based approach

- The school ensures practices and resources are evidence based
- The school ensures professional learning programs are based in evidence
- The school reflects on practice and processes

Whole school approach to mental health

- The school has a comprehensive approach to mental health with mental health literacy incorporated into the curriculum
- The school strategically plans for prevention, early intervention, intervention and postvention strategies and approaches
- Student voice is used to inform policy and program development