



Queensland
**Mental Health
Commission**

Grant Program: Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys 2025-2026

Guidelines

Opening date for applications	Closing date
12 December 2025	6 February 2026

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1. Background

Suicide is a highly personal and complex issue that is influenced by many interacting social and individual factors;... contributors include social isolation and loneliness, insecure housing and homelessness, harms related to alcohol and other drug (AOD) use, employment instability and unemployment, financial hardship, harms related to gambling, chronic health conditions, and previous trauma and/or adverse experiences relating to abuse or neglect. Life events such as end of a relationship, legal problems (including contact with the criminal justice system), domestic and family violence or job loss can also contribute to suicide¹.

While there are a diverse range of sexes and gender identities, for the purpose of this document the terms 'male', 'men', and 'boys' are used 'Male' refers to a person's biological sex assigned at birth. 'Men' is used to refer to adults who identify as men. 'Boys' is used to refer to people under the age of 18 who identify as such.

Suicide is one of the leading causes of premature death among men and boys in Australia and internationally. In Australia, males account for the majority of all deaths by suicide.

In Queensland in 2024²:

- 769 people in Queensland lost their life to suspected suicide.
- Of the 796 suspected suicides, 602 were males accounting for 78.3% of those deaths.
- Suicide rate among males was 3.7 times higher than among women.
- Males aged 40-44 had the highest number of suspected suicides followed closely by those aged 25-29, 35-39 and 50-54 years.
- Males aged 70-79 had a suspected suicide rate 8.7 times higher than females in the same age group.
- 61 First Nations people died by suspected suicide. First Nations people aged between 25-34 years had the largest proportion of First Nations suspected suicide rates.
- Among First Nations people, the ratio of suspected suicides is 3.7 males to 1 female.

From 2019 to 2024, age-standardised suspected suicide rates have consistently been higher for males than females. There are different theories regarding the higher suicide rates of males compared to females. These include disparities in early life experiences, differences in emotions and emotional expression, and social or cultural norms. Risk factors that have been linked with male suicides include the end of an intimate relationship or other interpersonal conflict, harms related to AOD use, physical limitations due to disability or illness, work/unemployment stressors, and financial difficulties.

2. About the Queensland Mental Health Commission (Commission)

The Commission is a statutory body established under the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013* to drive system reform of Queensland's mental health, a AOD, and suicide prevention systems. The Commission encourages and facilitates change to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders, with a focus on:

¹ https://www.qmhc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/qmhc_every_life_phase_2_plan.pdf

² https://info.qmhc.qld.gov.au/hubfs/Suicide_in_Queensland_Annual_Report_2024_Web.pdf?hsLang=en-au

preventing and
reducing the impact
of mental illness

preventing and
reducing the impact
of AOD related harm

preventing and
reducing the impact
of suicide

One of the Commission's primary functions is to develop and facilitate the implementation of a whole-of-government strategic plan on behalf of the Queensland Government, to set the strategic direction and identify priority areas for reform and system improvement. The current strategic plan is [*Shifting minds: The Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2023-2028*](#), which is complemented by three sub-plans:

- [*Achieving balance: The Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2022-2027*](#) (*Achieving balance*)
- [*Every life: The Queensland Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2029*](#) (*Every life*)
- [*The Queensland Trauma Strategy 2024-2029*](#) (*Trauma Strategy*)

The Commission has been allocated non-recurrent funding to support the implementation of *Every Life Phase Two*.

3. Grant alignment with strategic plans

This grant forms part of the Commission's implementation of its strategic plans. The grant aims to fund initiatives to support the implementation of **Every life Phase Two** with a focus on men and boys as a priority population. This includes the following specific actions in *Every life Phase Two*:

- ✓ Action 4 - Promote integrated models of support that use a whole-of-family and kin approach, especially for youth, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and First Nations people.
- ✓ Action 16 - Develop strategies to address contributors to male suicide including service appropriateness, service gaps and system navigation.
- ✓ Action 18 - Support the development and implementation of community-led and place-based suicide prevention initiatives for groups who may be at higher risk of suicide.
- ✓ Action 23 - Co-design suicide prevention literacy, supports and services for specific groups and life stages, including care transitions such as exiting out-of-home care, entering or being released from justice settings, leaving military service, finishing or disengaging from education/vocational settings, and entry into aged care or supported living
- ✓ Action 25 - Develop, implement and evaluate scalable early interventions for people experiencing the end of an intimate relationship, employment or workplace distress, financial distress and isolation and loneliness.

4. About the Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys Grant Program

This grant program is open to eligible organisations in Queensland. Organisations providing specific services to men and boys are encouraged to apply.

The Commission is seeking to engage organisations with suitable experience, capability and skills to deliver an initiative that meets the objectives identified under these grant guidelines. The total funding pool available under this grant can be found under **Section 5**.

Funding is time-limited to 30 June 2027. Successful recipients will demonstrate how the proposed initiatives

contribute to the suicide prevention reform agenda and can be replicated and sustainable beyond this grant.

4.1 Objectives

The applicant will propose an innovative suicide prevention initiative to be trialed and/or evaluated in Queensland; to effectively reduce suicides in men and boys and to build the evidence. It is intended that initiatives be adaptable and shared for broader use.

Initiatives should contribute to one or more of the Priority Areas listed below. Applicants can submit more than one application to address multiple Priority Areas.

- **Priority Area 1: Reducing risk factors for suicide among men and boys**
Address contributors to male suicide by improving service appropriateness, filling service gaps, enhancing system navigation, and implementing scalable early interventions targeting supports for the end of a relationship, workplace distress, financial pressure, isolation, and other known risk factors within priority populations.
- **Priority Area 2: Enhancing suicide prevention literacy and personal coping capacity**
Deliver evidence-informed suicide prevention literacy, supports, and services that build men and boys capacity to recognise and respond to suicidal distress, access gender-appropriate services and support them to live connected, purposeful, and meaningful lives. This also includes a focus on building and sustaining healthy masculinities.
- **Priority Area 3: Supporting men and boys through life transitions**
Develop tailored supports for specific groups and life stages, including transitions such as exiting out-of-home care, release from justice settings, leaving military service, disengaging from education or vocational pathways, and entering aged care or supported living.
- **Priority Area 4: Strengthening gender-responsive and culturally safe service systems**
Increase organisational competence by promoting integrated, gender-responsive, culturally safe, and whole-of-family/kin-based support models, with a strong focus on the needs of youth, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and First Nations men and boys.
- **Priority Area 5: Building community-led partnerships and reducing stigma**
Support community-led and place-based suicide prevention initiatives, strengthening local partnerships to improve referral pathways, reduce stigma, and foster positive community attitudes toward help-seeking among men and boys.

The Commission has identified **men and boys as a priority population** for the delivery of this grant initiative. To be eligible applications should include one or more of the identified priority populations. This could include, but not limited to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▪ Boys and young men (up to 25 years) | ▪ Men who use domestic and family violence (DFV) |
| ▪ Older men (65+ years) | ▪ Boys exposed to DFV or adverse experiences |
| ▪ Men who are new parents | ▪ Men experiencing AOD and/or gambling harms. |
| ▪ Men and boys living with a disability | ▪ LGBTIQ+ men and boys. |
| ▪ First Nations men and boys | ▪ Men and boys experiencing/at risk of loneliness. |
| ▪ Queensland veteran men | ▪ Men experiencing the end of an intimate relationship, custody and/or parenting challenge |
| ▪ Culturally and linguistically diverse men and boys | |
| ▪ Men and boys living in regional and remote communities | |
| ▪ Boys in contact with the Justice or Child Safety systems. | |

4.2 Program outcomes

The outcomes of the *Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys Grant Program* will build evidence and inform future work that the Queensland Government undertakes to support male suicide prevention initiatives.

The proposed initiative should:

- ✓ support suicide prevention system reform and align with the strategic intent of *Every life*.
- ✓ support healthy masculinities through promotion of positive and more expansive forms of masculinity to prevent gender-based violence
- ✓ be community-, peer- and/or lived-living experience (LLE)-driven.
- ✓ be informed by existing and/or emerging evidence.
- ✓ contributes to innovation and generating evidence.
- ✓ include a clear evaluation framework/plan³.
- ✓ embed lived and living experience leadership in the design, delivery and evaluation of the initiative.
- ✓ include how communities will be engaged in codesign, as well as delivery and evaluation.
- ✓ include a project timeline.
- ✓ include a budget.
- ✓ include a sustainability plan.

At the conclusion of the initiative funding period, grant recipients are required to prepare a detailed end of project report and evaluation..

4.3 Partnerships and engagement

The Commission recognises that driving reform requires both strong partnerships and meaningful engagement from a range of stakeholders. Partnerships may include new or ongoing collaborations, while engagement refers to broader activities that involve and connect stakeholders.

These stakeholders could include public, private, not-for-profit organisations, and communities that support the delivery of health and social services, businesses, industries, peak organisations, and/or Commonwealth, state, and local governments.

Applications should outline a commitment to working with key stakeholders, which may include, community organisations, priority cohorts, other key organisations, sporting and recreational clubs, government agencies, and existing partnerships.

4.4 Lived - Living experience (LLE) engagement

The Commission recognises the importance of LLE expertise in informing, guiding and leading the reform of suicide prevention systems. The Commission considers it critical that people with LLE of suicide are actively involved in the proposed initiative's development, implementation and evaluation. For the purposes of this grant, the Commission defines 'lived-living experience' as:

- having experienced suicidal thoughts, been through a suicidal crisis or made an attempt on their life.
- having supported a loved one through suicidal crisis.
- having been bereaved by suicide.

The Commission also acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may use different definitions of LLE due to the ongoing negative historical impacts and the need to consider Aboriginal and

³ Although an academic evaluation might not be applicable/suitable to all initiatives, considerations should be taken to collect data during the project implementation to build/support the evidence on how the initiative is supporting suicide prevention.

Torres Strait Islander peoples ways of understanding social and emotional wellbeing ⁴.

The Commission also acknowledges that LLE can vary greatly across cultures and groups and should take into account the diverse ways in which people understand and express mental health and wellbeing. LLE also recognises the effects of migration journeys, displacement, intergenerational trauma, discrimination, and other significant life events on the social and emotional wellbeing of people.

The Commission believes that providing financial remuneration is an important part of recognising the valuable contribution that people with LLE bring. As such, the Commission expects the successful recipients to pay paid participation payments in accordance with the Commission's paid participation fees*, unless the applicant can demonstrate that its own paid participation policy offers better conditions. **Applications need to outline how people with LLE will be engaged in initiative design, implementation and evaluation including a budget for all paid participation expenses.**

*Paid participation time should be remunerated in accordance with fees below.

- Less than 2 hours: \$125
- Half a day (max of 4 hours): \$250
- Whole day (max of 7.25 hours): \$500

The approach must align with the values outlined in the Commission's [Commitment to partnering with people with lived-living experience in Queensland](#) and use non-stigmatising, trauma-informed language and approaches.

4.6 Sustainability

This grant funding opportunity is time limited to 30 June 2027. **Applicants will be required to outline the measures introduced during the life of the project to ensure sustainability beyond 30 June 2027.** The Commission is unable to offer funding to successful recipients beyond the life of the grant.

5. Grant funding available

A total of up to \$3 million is available for the *Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys Grant Program*. The Commission invites applications for up to \$300,000 per application, to be delivered by 30 June 2027. Applicants may apply for more than one grant, with each application submitted separately.

- **Priority Area 1: Reducing risk factors for suicide among men and boys**
Address contributors to male suicide by improving service appropriateness, filling service gaps, enhancing system navigation, reducing stigma and its impacts, and implementing scalable early interventions targeting supports for the end of a relationship, workplace distress, financial pressure, isolation, and other known risk factors within priority populations.
- **Priority Area 2: Enhancing suicide prevention literacy and personal coping capacity**
Deliver evidence-informed suicide prevention literacy, supports, and services that build men and boys capacity to recognise and respond to suicidal distress, access gender-appropriate services and support them to live connected, purposeful, and meaningful lives. This also includes a focus on building and sustaining healthy masculinities.
- **Priority Area 3: Supporting men and boys through life transitions**
Develop tailored supports for specific groups and life stages, including transitions such as exiting out-of-home care, release from justice settings, leaving military service, disengaging from education or vocational pathways, and entering aged care or supported living.

⁴ [What is lived experience of suicide? | Roses in the Ocean](#)

- **Priority Area 4: Strengthening gender-responsive and culturally safe service systems**
Increase organisational competence by promoting integrated, gender-responsive, culturally safe, and whole-of-family/kin-based support models, addressing stigma and its impacts, with a strong focus on the needs of youth, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and First Nations men and boys.
- **Priority Area 5: Building community-led partnerships and reducing stigma**
Support community-led and place-based suicide prevention initiatives, strengthening local partnerships to improve referral pathways, reducing stigma and its impacts, and foster positive community attitudes toward help-seeking among men and boys.

Applicants must include a proposed budget, using the template linked in Smartygrants and available on the Commission website <https://www.qmhc.qld.gov.au/documents/budgetproposaltemplate4xlsx>

Applicant organisations may make more than one application; however each application must be for a separate initiative and different in approach.

6. Eligibility criteria

6.1 Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply for a grant, the applicant must:

- have a registered Australian Business Number or Australian Charity Number (ACN) and be registered for GST purposes, where relevant
- be Queensland based or will deliver the initiative in Queensland
- hold or will obtain the appropriate workers' compensation, public liability and professional indemnity insurance required to undertake this initiative and all related activities
- have no outstanding financial liability, service delivery or performance issues for funding previously and/or currently provided by the Queensland Government,

6.2 Who is not eligible to apply?

Applicants are not eligible where they:

- are an unincorporated association, a sole trader, or an individual
- a commercial organisation
- declared bankrupt or subject to insolvency proceedings (as relevant to the entity type)
- accept any form of funding from tobacco and/or alcohol companies or their related foundations either directly or indirectly or promote the use of tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs
- seek to promote political or religious views or ideologies. This includes ideologies that promote harmful masculinities, misogyny or support, promote, minimise or excuse the use of violence, including violence against women and children.

7. Funding exclusions

Grant funding **cannot** be used for the following:

- activities that do not align with the grant objectives
- activities delivered outside Queensland
- activities that are already funded through another source, including another Queensland Government organisation. For example, you cannot expend against two funding sources for the same activity (sometimes referred to as 'double dipping')
- activities that duplicate existing programs, initiatives, products or services
- recurrent or retrospective funds, including enhancements to existing work or initiatives; reimbursement of costs already incurred or expended; and any component of the initiative or

- related activities that have taken place prior to the application being approved
- salaries or wages for staff not engaged in direct delivery of the funded activity
- for-profit activities
- interstate or overseas travel
- general operational expenses or purchasing and repair of equipment not related to the initiative
- recurring maintenance or operational costs of the organisation/private entity or their facilities
- activities that involve lobbying or commercial ventures for personal gain or fundraising activities
- capital works or upgrades to existing infrastructure
- the purchase of vehicles or similar depreciable assets
- activities that cannot be covered by public liability insurance.

7.1 Applicant

An applicant is the eligible organisation applying for the *Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys Grant Program*. If an applicant's proposal is selected, the applicant will enter into a Contract with the Commission. The applicant will assume full responsibility for the development, implementation and evaluation of the initiative and meet all deliverables and reporting requirements, even if other parties undertake components of the initiative.

The applicant will be responsible for the governance of the initiative and will have the capacity to monitor and report on the progress and achievement of deliverables and manage risks.

Applicants must have no outstanding financial accountability, service delivery or performance issues for funding provided by the Queensland Government and must hold insurance which will cover the period during which activities are funded.

7.2 Timing

The grant will commence on the execution of a Contract between the successful applicant and the Commission and will be subject to the specific requirements of the initiative. The timeframe outlined in the application is expected to include appropriate time allocated for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the initiative by 30 June 2027. Contracts are anticipated to be executed for project commencement in early 2026.

8. Selection criteria

The Commission is not evaluating offers on the sole criterion of price. Pricing is not a weighted criterion but will form part of a broader value for money assessment. The evaluation process will involve an assessment of applications received against the criteria listed below.

Mandatory Criteria ⁵	Response	
<u>Promote positive masculinity</u>	<p>Applicant must demonstrate a commitment and/or alignment to all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting ethical, accurate, respectful, and evidence-informed narratives that uphold the safety, dignity, and rights of all members of the community across public statements, social media activity, and/or organisational publications • organisational values align with established frameworks that promote healthy masculinities, do not support, promote, minimise or excuse the use of violence, including violence against women and children • evidence of organisational policies, training, and governance mechanisms that promote equity and support the prevention of gender-based violence 	
Selection Criteria	Response	Weighting
<p>Selection criteria 1. Initiative meets the objectives of the grant through its rationale and approach. The initiative must be guided by supporting evidence.</p>	<p>Responses must demonstrate <u>all</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initiative is responding to identified need, based on data and evidence of local needs, evidence or emerging evidence • which objective/s the initiative will address, and how these will be met • 	20%
<p>Selection criteria 2: The application demonstrates value for money and the applicant demonstrates the capability to successfully deliver the initiative using the proposed approach, budget and other identified inputs, and measure and achieve the anticipated outcomes.</p>	<p>Responses must demonstrate <u>all</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisation's capability to successfully deliver the initiative on time within budget, and/or previous experience in successfully delivering similar initiatives • robust corporate governance processes • . • cost-effectiveness and demonstrated efficient budgeting processes • social and economic impacts • how the initiative will be evaluated, including data collection at baseline, during and after implementation of the initiative 	25%

⁵ Mandatory requirements are "pass/fail". Applicants who do not meet this criterion will not progress to assessment against other criteria.

Selection Criteria	Response	Weighting
Selection criteria 3. Demonstrates intended outcomes and outputs for the proposed initiative.	Responses must demonstrate <u>all</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expected <u>outcomes</u> of the initiative and how these meet the grant's objectives • expected <u>outputs</u> of the initiative and how these meet the grant's objectives • measures of success of the initiative against the grants' objectives • how the proposed approach, milestones and budget will achieve the identified outcomes 	15%
Selection criteria 4: System reform, sustainability, replication and application to other settings/regions.	Responses must demonstrate <u>all</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the initiative will drive system reform • how the initiative could be replicated and applied across settings and regions • how learnings and outcomes of the initiative will be captured and shared to support broadscale adoption • how the initiative and its outcomes are sustainable beyond the life of the grant and will benefit the community 	20%
Selection criteria 5: A partnership approach with relevant stakeholders to inform and drive the initiative to design, implement and achieve its outputs and outcomes.	Responses must demonstrate <u>all</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify key relevant stakeholders, such as other organisations, community groups and government agencies/services, to achieve the best possible outcomes • outline the roles and responsibilities of how these key relevant stakeholders will be involved in the initiative • how suicide prevention expertise and people with LLE of suicide are engaged in the development, implementation and evaluation of the initiative 	20%

9. Additional contextual information

Applicants are encouraged to consider the following strategic plans for additional contextual information:

- [*Shifting minds: Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs and Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2023-2028*](#)
- [*Achieving balance: The Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2022-2027*](#)
- [*Every life: The Queensland Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2029*](#)
- [*The Queensland Trauma Strategy 2024-2029*](#)

10. How to apply

10.1 Submitting an application

All applications must be submitted online via Smartygrants.

Visit the Commission's landing page (<https://gmhc.smartygrants.com.au/>).

Offline applications **will not be accepted**.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to provide further information and/or participate in an interview.

No extensions to application submissions will be permitted and **no late submissions or amendments will be accepted**.

10.2 Timeline and key dates

Activity	Timeline
Applications opened via SmartyGrants - Amendments permitted up to due date	12 December 2025
Briefing Session	23 January 2026
Closing date on SmartyGrants for questions	30 January 2026
Closing date for SmartyGrant online applications	6 February 2026
Intended completion date for evaluation of offers	4 March 2026
Successful applicants notified	16 March 2026
Intended Contract start date	Early April 2026

Briefing Session

The Commission will hold an online briefing session via Microsoft Teams on **Friday 23 January 2026** at **10:00am AEST**. Attendance is encouraged, but it is not mandatory.

Please register your attendance via the link here by <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/70ffd52c-f8d1-4f62-ae71-17278d4a17ef@240445d8-adfd-4029-b8f3-2afa6dca780a>.

11. Successful recipients

11.1 Contract

A copy of the fully executed Contract will be provided to successful recipients.

The Commission will only enter into a Contract with the applicant organisation (one party). The Contract sets out the terms and conditions that will apply to the grants, but some inclusions will be made based on information from successful applications. The Commission may choose to negotiate directly with a successful applicant in relation to some aspects of selected initiatives.

The Contract will outline payment instalments and the conditions for receiving each instalment. The final payment will be made on the acceptance of the final report, evaluation and financial statement by the Commission. Accordingly, applicants should consider the requirements outlined in the Contract prior to

completing the application.

Prior to offering a *Grant Program: Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys*, the Commission reserves the right to undertake further Due Dilligence checks of the applicant, including but not limited to the following:

- solvency checking
- Australian Business Number checking
- liaising with relevant Queensland Government agencies
- liaising with the proposed partner organisation
- checking references
- any other due diligence checks as required.

11.2 Promotion

The Commission is likely to promote selected initiatives through its various communication processes, at certain events, and/or at key stages in the life of the *Grant Program: Suicide Prevention for Men and Boys*. The Commission expects successful applicants to work in collaboration with Commission staff to provide relevant information in a timely manner to support these processes.

The Commission supports successful applicants promoting their initiative locally through their communication processes and networks, for instance, on the applicant's website and newsletters. The Commission may also be supportive of successful applicants promoting their initiatives through a formal external process or third-party publication, for example, at a national conference or peer-review publication. However, approval must first be obtained from the Commission.

In both instances, acknowledgement of the Commission's contribution will be required. Further information about the Commission's branding and acknowledgement requirements will be provided to successful applicants.

11.3 Reporting

In line with the Contract, it is expected that a successful applicant who enters a Contract with the Commission will provide regular (generally six-monthly) written updates on the funded initiative, and in addition will provide a detailed written report on the initiative progress against deliverables and budget at its conclusion.

Grant recipients will also be required to provide regular financial acquittal reporting, and an annual audited financial statement.

If the Commission is not satisfied with the progress of an initiative, further payment of funds will not be made until satisfactory progress has been made on the initiative. If satisfactory progress is not achieved within a reasonable time, the Contract may be terminated, and all unspent funds will be recovered by the Commission via invoice. Where there is significant underspend against the approved budget, the Commission may withhold further payments until the underspend is addressed or reallocated in agreement with the Commission.