

SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY — COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

**569. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to the answer to question on notice 4779 asked on Thursday, 10 November 2011.

- (1) How many community action plans—CAPs—have been completed and are being implemented?
- (2) Who is monitoring and implementing those CAPs?
- (3) What indicators have been developed to measure the success or failure of the CAPs?
- (4) What effect have the CAPs had on the number of suicides in Western Australia?
- (5) How can we be sure that the suicide prevention strategy is meeting its stated objectives?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) As at 20 August 2012, 34 CAPs have been approved, covering over 250 individual locations, six statewide plans and initiatives for at-risk groups that include young men, Aboriginal people, and regional and remote communities. Across Western Australia, 115 organisations have signed an agency pledge to partner with the strategy and implement suicide prevention activities and training for their workforce and stakeholders.
- (2) The CAPs are monitored by the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention—MCSP—and Centrecare, the non-government organisation contracted to support the MCSP. I think the member's first question asked how many community action plans have been completed and implemented. Community action plans are designed to be ongoing and therefore will not necessarily have been completed. I would hope that community action plans can be sustained into the future at an unknown date. It is not a matter of starting and stopping action plans.

**Hon Helen Bullock:** What about the allocation of funding?

**Hon HELEN MORTON:** I will continue. The CAPs are implemented by community coordinators, hosted by local organisations across the state, in conjunction with local community stakeholders.

- (3) The “Western Australian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2009–2010: Everybody’s Business”—the strategy—is aligned with the national suicide prevention strategy Living is for Everyone and provides a framework and governance structure to guide initiatives in Western Australia for the future. The LIFE framework contains six action areas that guide suicide prevention activities and thereby contribute to a reduction in suicide and suicide attempts.
- (4)–(5) The strategy has initiated and resourced locally owned CAPs and agency plans that improve the strength and resilience of communities, expand community knowledge of suicide, and support capacity building in communities at increased risk. The CAPs are uniquely created and owned by each community to reflect its own culturally specific needs and are developed through a process of community engagement with individuals, families, communities and local organisations. Each plan’s aim is to increase the knowledge, skills and capacity of local communities to recognise people at risk of suicide, to help prevent suicide and reduce the harm caused by suicide.

The strategy is focused on sustainability and community engagement, and its successful uptake is evidenced by the number of local groups engaged and delivering activities in their region. Edith Cowan University is undertaking research and evaluation to support the strategy. The strategy outlines specific indicators and measures in the six key action areas that are in line with the national LIFE framework.