

MOUNT ALEXANDER SUICIDE RESPONSE GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

Mount Alexander Shire has the highest average age-standardised suicide rate for both 2001-2006 and 2007-2012 periods (compared to other 5 central Victorian LGAs and Australian average), according to the National Coronial Information System: Intentional Self Harm Fatalities (provided by Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group).

Comparison: Average age-sex-standardised suicide death rates/100,000 deaths						
Period	Macedon Ranges	Greater Bendigo	Mount Alexander	Campaspe	Central Goldfields & Loddon	Australia
2001-06	14.4	14.5	24.1	10.8	15.0	11.3
2007-12	13.5	8.4	14.5	10.5	12.0	11.0

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mount Alexander Suicide Response Group (MASRG) is to provide a coordinated and effective response to family, friends and colleagues following a suicide and minimise the risk of contagion within the Mount Alexander community.

MEMBERSHIP

MASRG Membership consists of organisations that provide services within the Mount Alexander Shire and are committed to supporting the community members impacted by suicide events. These include:

- Ambulance
- Bendigo Health, Community Mental Health Services
- Castlemaine Community Health
- Castlemaine Health
- Castlemaine Police
- Castlemaine Secondary College
- Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership

- HALT Head Space MIND
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Murray Primary Health Network
- Standby

OBJECTIVES

This group will have a shared responsibility of ensuring community members have access to support services following a suicide event and reduce the risk of contagion. The objectives are:

1. Develop an agreed Mount Alexander Suicide Communication Response Protocol
2. Implement the protocol and support the Response Coordinator role
3. Assess compliance and effectiveness of the protocol and amend on lessons learned
4. All members to review their own organisations protocols to respond to a suicide event and advocate improvement where applicable

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Decisions are made by those who turn up.

MEETINGS PROCEEDINGS

Chair: to be nominated at the end of each calendar year

Agenda: will be distributed one week prior to the meeting. There will be a standard agenda. Members may forward additional agenda items to the chair for inclusion.

Minutes: Brief action orientated meeting minutes will be taken and distributed to all members within two weeks of the meeting. The chair will be responsible for organising the minutes.

Frequency: Meetings will be initiated by the Response Coordinator following a suicide event and organised by the Chair. Extraordinary meetings will be convened by the chair if required.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter, the MASRG representatives agree that unless required by law to do so, that he/she or their proxy, will not divulge any information acquired from this meeting that is not already in the public domain. Confidential information obtained during a meeting is for the purpose of informing the group and for discussion within the group only.