



Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Minister for Mental Health

Western Australia's first residential service for young people at risk of suicide

- McGowan Government supporting young people experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviours
- Nearly \$3 million to pilot the State's first innovative short-term residential service in Perth for young people experiencing suicidal ideation
- This service will support up to 300 young people and their families a year, away from emergency departments
- The Perth-based pilot is expected to start in 2023.

The McGowan Government is dedicating almost \$3 million to pilot the State's first youth short-term residential service for young people experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

The service is expected to help up to 300 young people and their families each year.

The innovative model will provide support to 16 to 24 year olds with suicidal thoughts in a residential environment.

It offers young Western Australians an evidence-based alternative to hospital emergency departments.

Staffed with peer workers, trained volunteers and overseen by a clinician, the service will provide trauma-informed, person-centred support for young people, including developing their skills to self-manage thoughts of suicide.

Ruah Community Services, Samaritans WA and Telethon Kids Institute will design and establish the five-bed service in collaboration with young people, their families and mental health experts to ensure it will be fit-for-purpose.

The Perth-based pilot is expected to be operational in 2023.

Comments attributed to Mental Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson:

"This is a critical time for mental health services for young people and nearly \$3 million to pilot this service will improve mental health outcomes for young people.

"We know emergency departments are not the appropriate place for young people experiencing suicidal thoughts.

“This short-term residential service will provide support for up to 300 young people and their families each year with innovative suicide prevention support.

“When established next year the service will offer 16-24 year olds evidence-based support in a fit for purpose facility, while also reducing pressure on our emergency departments.”