

2021 LiFE Awards – State and Territory Recipients

The recipients of the 18th Annual 2021 State and Territory LiFE Awards have been selected - and **LivingWorks Australia** is proud to be part of three award winning recipients:

- **Prof Maree Toombs, Priority Populations Queensland**
- **Rotary Club of Gladstone Port Curtis – Project We Care, Communities in Action Queensland**
- **City of Rockingham, Communities in Action Western Australia**

LivingWorks CEO Shayne Connell said: “Nominations are received from all over Australia by **Suicide Prevention Australia** showcasing the important and innovative work that many Australians are doing in the prevention of suicide.

“I could not be prouder to be associated with such amazing state winners in the two categories highlighted – and thank them for their tireless work to create networks of safety via LivingWorks suicide first aid training.

“LivingWorks has always been about empowering communities – whether health professionals, workplaces, schools, or the community – and the winners are a testament to that vision. Congratulations to them and all the recipients,” he added

Category: Priority Populations: *The Priority Populations Award recognises initiatives to address, prevent, or respond to suicidal behaviours with populations and groups disproportionately affected by suicide. Populations or groups disproportionately affected by suicide include Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, men, and young people.*

WINNER: Professor Maree Toombs, Queensland

Maree is the brainchild of the newly co-designed **LivingWorks I-ASIST** (Indigenous Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) program. Maree is a proud Euralie and Kooma woman and Associate Dean Indigenous Engagement, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland (UQ),

Maree led the 4-year NHMRC co-design of I-ASIST with her team, in partnership with LivingWorks Australia, which included the following impact:

- Trained 20 Indigenous trainers;
- 22 I-ASIST workshops;
- trained 600 responders across 15 communities.
- 140 interventions in 3 months.
- World-first Indigenous-ASIST two-day suicide first aid training face to face fully developed.
- Official Launch set for November 2021

Since the end of the pilot phase, I-ASIST is now delivered by Indigenous I-ASIST trainers in parts of the country in most cases, funded at grassroots level by PHNs, delivering suicide intervention skills training for communities. This provides ownership and sustainability for Indigenous trainers beyond the research project.

Congratulations to the other recipients in this category: #chatsafe, Victoria; Helen Lambert (The Little Red Threat Book), Northern Territory; CYPRESS Program, Western Australia

Communities in Action: *The Communities in Action Award recognises a community campaign, event, or community training initiative that has taken action to address, prevent, or respond to suicidal behaviours and their impact on the local community. The focus of this award is community led initiatives. In this category, a community can be a physical location, a cultural community or a community of interest such as a sports club.*

WINNER: Rotary Club of Gladstone Port Curtis – Project We Care, Queensland

In 2011, a group of Rotary members in Gladstone who had been impacted by suicides in the Gladstone area, decided that they wanted to be proactive in making Gladstone a suicide safer community & Project We Care was born.

Its goal is for whole population awareness and upskilling around suicide. It is led and managed by John Whitten and facilitated by members of Toolooa State High School pastoral care & guidance team. Since its inception, the Project has run approximately **30 LivingWorks ASIST workshops and 6-8 LivingWorks safeTALK** workshops annually in Gladstone & surrounding communities. All local High Schools are offered safeTALK workshops for students of Year 10.

In excess of 1,000 community members in that 10 period have learned suicide alertness & suicide intervention skills & there is a team of local trainers continuing to deliver the workshops. All admin and facilitation is done on a voluntary basis and all financial costs are covered by the Rotary Club of Gladstone – Port Curtis. With a population of less than 60 000 people in the Gladstone region, this is an outstanding community achievement.

The **LivingWorks** trainers located in the High Schools are registered psychologists, with many years of experience of working with young people.

WINNER: City of Rockingham, Western Australia

The City of Rockingham are leaders in the Local Government sector, and champions of **LivingWorks training**. They have far exceeded their minimum requirements as a service provider, prioritising work that promotes positive mental health, increases suicide intervention skills and motivates organisations to be involved in suicide prevention efforts.

Since 2019, the City has established a close working partnership with WAPOL and the Mental Health Co-Response team to ensure at-risk community members that may not be in a position to request assistance are identified and engaged with the Co-Response Team. The City of Rockingham has been proactive in promoting wellbeing, community connection and delivery of programs to promote positive mental health. The City has been a member on the community response group (suspected suicide postvention group) associated with the WA Police trial site.

For over five years, the City has been offering free suicide prevention training to residents who live or work in the City through **LivingWorks training such as Start, ASIST and Suicide to Hope** as well as Mental Health First Aid. In addition, the City funds training to enhance the skills of volunteers in the not-for-profit sector to identify and support people appropriately.

Congratulations to the other recipients in this category: The Illawarra Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Collaborative (the Collaborative), New South Wales; The Sons of the West (run by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation), Victoria; The Learning from Lived Experience Project (LfLE), South Australia

National LiFE Awards - to be announced next week for WSPD!

1. **Leadership:** An individual or organisation that has demonstrated consistent leadership to shine a light on suicide prevention. The National Leadership Award recognises individuals or

organisations who have demonstrated leadership to address, prevent, or respond to suicidal behaviours and their impact, through collaboration. *Demonstrate leadership and collaboration in working towards a world without suicide.*

2. **Innovation:** An individual or organisation that has demonstrated innovation to address, prevent, or respond to suicidal behaviours and their impact, and delivers quality processes informed by evidence. *Demonstrate the initiative or activity is high-quality, effective and aligns with best practice suicide prevention or postvention.*
3. **Impact:** An individual or organisation that demonstrates impact in the prevention of suicidal behaviours, utilising strategically developed initiatives that offer scalability. *Demonstration of impact to address, prevent, or respond to suicidal behaviours.*