



## INVITATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE

The [Illawarra Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Collaborative](http://www.suicidepreventioncollaborative.org.au) (the Collaborative) invites you to get involved with the local co-design of the Towards Zero Suicides initiatives.

In partnership with the Local Health District and the Primary Health Network, the Collaborative, is bringing together a rich and diverse group of stakeholders to collaborate with the common purpose of **designing supports that better meet the needs of people in suicidal crisis.**

### Safe Spaces: an alternative to ED

Safe Spaces will provide an alternative to ED for people experiencing a suicidal crisis. Safe Spaces will provide a welcoming, non-clinical environment for people to connect with peer workers and find information about a range of other supports.

Safe Spaces will be funded by NSW Ministry of Health, but delivered locally by non-government organisations.

### The co-design

Critically, Safe Spaces must be designed through a **genuine collaboration between those who provide supports and those who use them.** This is essential to making sure these new services meet the needs of our community, complement existing supports, and reach those who are struggling but not already connecting with local supports.

People with a lived experience of suicide have a particularly vital role to play in designing supports that meet the needs of the people who access them.

The co-design process is an open, respectful one where all participants are equal. All participants will have their voice heard and respected.

It will be an opportunity to:

- Have your experience valued, and use your experience to help others.
- Contribute your ideas about what these services need to look like in order to meet the needs of our community.

### How to get involved

**The co-design process for *Safe Spaces* will run from May – June 2020.** There will be multiple opportunities and ways for people with lived experience and health professionals to contribute including online forums, surveys and focus groups.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be involved, you can express your interest via the link below:

[www.suicidepreventioncollaborative.org.au/TZS](http://www.suicidepreventioncollaborative.org.au/TZS)

Expressions of interest for participating via online focus groups are closing soon - see EOI closing dates below:

- Lived experience focus groups: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 4pm
- Health professional focus groups: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 4pm

