

CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Seminar Series

The University of Melbourne



MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF
**POPULATION
& GLOBAL
HEALTH**

Mobilising a network of community networks to prevent suicide: Insights from the Wesley LifeForce Suicide Prevention Networks evaluation

Presenters: Dr Lennart Reifels and Dr Amy Morgan

Thursday 10 June 11.00am-12.00noon

Via Zoom

**[https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82722526623?](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82722526623?pwd=d3dWNFg4OWFsaUdVYSt1S1NOQzE3dz09;)
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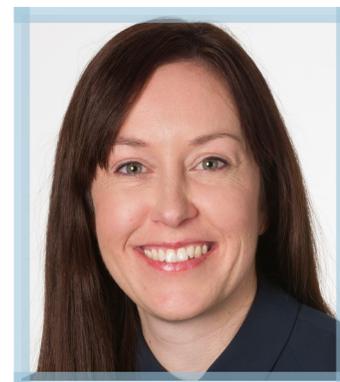
Community-led suicide prevention approaches have been recognised as an important component of national suicide prevention strategies, yet little is known about their outcomes and effectiveness. The diversity of local community contexts and varying nature of presenting issues among affected groups highlight the importance of a locally tailored and well-coordinated approach to suicide prevention that works from the ground up to optimally address community needs. Community networks or community coalitions can therefore provide a central mechanism to mobilise and coordinate local stakeholder efforts and establish a whole-of-community approach to suicide prevention.

The Wesley LifeForce Suicide Prevention Networks program has been working with the Australian community to support the development of local suicide prevention networks since 2007. The program is unique globally, as the only nationally operating non-government program supporting more than 100 suicide prevention networks at a grassroots level. Wesley LifeForce Networks conduct upstream activities which are tailored to local contexts with a focus on fostering interagency co-operation and raising community awareness.

This presentation will highlight key findings and insights from a recent program evaluation, which involved a series of seven studies to examine the impacts and outcomes of LifeForce Networks for network members and communities, and the key factors underpinning effective network functioning.



Dr Lennart Reifels is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Mental Health whose research program focuses on advancing population mental health, suicide prevention and disaster risk reduction.



Dr Amy Morgan is a Senior Research Fellow and CR Roper Fellow in the Centre for Mental Health. Her research focuses on increasing the mental health literacy of the community, reducing stigma, and preventing common mental disorders and suicide.

These seminars are free. Visitors are welcome to attend.
For more information contact the Centre for Mental Health +61 3 8344 0908