



**WAPHA**  
WA Primary Health Alliance

**phn**  
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,  
COUNTRY WA  
An Australian Government Initiative

# Media Release

## **WAPHA first Australian member of European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD)**

22 February 2017

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) is the first Australian member of the European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD) Society which aims to improve care and optimise treatment for patients with depressive disorders and prevent suicidal behaviour.

The European Alliance Against Depression is based on the experiences from the model region "Nuremberg Alliance against Depression" which showed a reduction in suicidal acts (-24% in two years) by implementing a specific 4-levelled approach.

As the National chapter of the EAAD, WAPHA, which operates Perth South, Perth North and Country WA Primary Health Networks, will implement the 4-level approach in Western Australia as part of the Federal Government's commitment to strengthen primary mental health care.

WAPHA chief executive officer Learne Durrington said WAPHA's approach to the EAAD principles will focus on integrating all available local resources, ensuring general practitioners are equipped to recognise and respond to depression, communities have increased awareness that depression is treatable, general focus on high risk groups and there is full engagement of community facilitators and stakeholders at all points in the process.

Former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd), will undertake the role as the EAAD Australian Chapter Patron.

Sir Angus noted that the incidence of mental illness throughout Australia is on the rise and sadly too many young men and women are taking their own lives.

He believes the EAAD is a robust and proven framework that can guide and shape a community's response to destigmatising mental health and reducing suicidal acts.

Sir Angus is pleased to support the implementation of the EAAD model in the Australian context and is confident this approach will reshape how mental health, particularly suicide, is recognised, treated and perceived.



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WAPHA Mental Health general manager, Dr Daniel Rock, said the membership to the EAAD gives us access to a proven program that empowers local communities to take action against depression and in doing so, improve the health and wellbeing of communities.

“It is not just a framework for mental health clinicians and professionals, rather provides access to world’s best practice, tools and resources for communities to actively participate in providing mental health care for their families and neighbourhoods,” he said.

Further information regarding the EAAD model can be found at [www.eaad.net/home](http://www.eaad.net/home)

## ENDS

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