



SUPPORTING THE ENGAGEMENT OF PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF SUICIDE

HOW TO: create a safe and supportive environment

Also refer to Lived Experience of Suicide Engagement, Partnership and Integration (LESEPI) Guidance Document

NEEDS

People with lived experience of suicide are involved in creating environments reflective of what constitutes safety for them.

Invite people with lived experience to articulate what they need to feel comfortable and safe participating, including but not limited to:

- nature of engagement (face to face/ virtual/ 1-on-1 or group etc);
- number of other people with lived experience engaged;
- support they may wish for based on other stakeholders in room;
- pre-reading including project specific language, acronyms, etc.

CULTURE

Ensure cultural experts with lived experience of suicide expertise are engaged to determine engagement strategies as well as providing advice about how to **establish and maintain culturally safe working environments**.

Please refer to the Resources section of this toolkit for further information on working with culturally diverse communities; this includes Multicultural, Transcultural, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTIQ+.

CHOICE

Afford choice and control to people with a lived experience of suicide to determine their needs.

- Offer access to a lived experience of suicide mentor before, during and after engagement.
- People with a lived experience of suicide can contribute as much or as little as is appropriate for them.
- Ensure it is understood that disengagement from the project at any time will be supported.
- Provide flexibility in times of engagement where possible to accommodate for other commitments.