Evaluating and Supporting Suicide Prevention: Addressing Social and Emotional Wellbeing

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Introduction
- Fifth National Plan for mental health.
- Close the Gap measures aren’t met.
- Suicide rates among teens is high.
- 18 initiatives featured in 2014 ATSISPEP.

Reflection
- Presented statistics to show the need for more funding for suicide prevention initiatives.
- Ensured the progress of the initiatives.
- Understood the health inequalities even within a country across ethnicities.
- Contextualized history, policy, and on-site consultation into health.
- Realized the wide variation among these suicide prevention organizations.
- Understood how the determinants of health intersect.

Objective of Internship
- Update the Center of Best Practices for Suicide Prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander website.
- Support strong suicide prevention initiatives and encourage stronger programs.
- Implement skin infection prevention program through community workers.

Work profile
- Telethon Kids Institute is a research institution aimed at improving health of young children and mothers.
- Worked on Indigenous suicide.
- Incorporated new evaluations into the initiatives showcased.
- Visited rural communities for Healthy Skin Project implementation.

Looking ahead
- Through my experience, I really enjoyed the policy work and the process of working with suicide initiatives to address health disparities. I hope to do more work in health policies in the future.

Questions
- How do we encourage more suicide prevention organizations to show efficacy of their programs?
- What are good metrics for the evaluation of the Healthy Skin Project?

Conclusion
- Health is complicated!
- The process to addressing health concerns is never streamlined and straightforward.

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