

## “I tried to end my life.”

Have you recently tried to take your own life? Do you need assistance to identify what help is available? There is compassionate support for yourself, your family and friends.

Have you recently tried to take your own life? How are you feeling? Following a suicide attempt you may be feeling exhausted. Perhaps even confused. Dealing with the reactions from others, the experience with emergency services and the event itself may leave you feeling overwhelmed.

But you are not on your own. You may feel disappointed, angry, or relieved. Your feelings may be all-consuming at the moment. It's OK; they will subside and you will be able to return to your normal life. There is professional help available, such as psychological counselling. Sometimes medication may help you get back on your feet.

### Self-Care Strategies

There are a range of strategies that might help you at this time:

- Make a suicide safety plan. Include things such as reasons for living and helpful activities. List your triggers, people you can talk to, professionals that can help you, emergency contact details. If it helps, ask your family or a trusted friend to help you.

Your GP can help you with a mental health care plan. For more info on safety planning speak to our Lifeskills Australia team on 1800 870 080 or email at [info@lifeskillsaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@lifeskillsaustralia.com.au)

- Identify coping strategies that work for you. For example, you may seek to manage thoughts and feelings by distancing yourself. In order to allow you to seek help, commit to giving yourself time by saying something such as “I will wait 24 hours before I do anything to myself.”

Remove items that you could use to hurt yourself by asking a trusted friend to look after them.

- Engage in pleasurable activities, such as taking a bath, listening to your favourite music, watching a movie or catching up with a trusted friend. These

activities can help improve your mood and distract you from negative intrusive thoughts.

- Spend time with others, friends, family, even being in a public space can help to prevent feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- Avoid alcohol and other drugs — as these can increase risk taking and impulsive behaviours. Significantly, substance use has an impact on your physical body and may increase feelings of depression.
- Keep a diary. Recording your thoughts and feelings helps to identify negative thinking styles, as well as recording progress.
- Keep a list of support services such as Lifeline (13 11 14) or the Suicide Call-Back Service (1300 659 467), your psychologist, your GP or emergency services. Always call 000 in an emergency.
- Identify your triggers. If you are able to identify your triggers then you may be able to stay safe from suicidal thoughts. Triggers can include stressful situations, certain people, places or events or an anniversary of a painful event.
- Calm down by using strategies such as breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation or meditation. There are many apps available on your smart phone, or videos to watch on YouTube or you could borrow a CD from the library.