



Project Title: Suicide and help seeking behaviours in Australia: a comparison study of urban and non-urban populations		Code: SMS7
Host School / Institute: Sydney Medical School/ Matilda Centre		Address: The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, Level 6, Jane Foss Russell Building, University of Sydney, Darlington
Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Working with children clearance <i>Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.</i>		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Matthew Sunderland		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Associate Professor Philip Batterham (Centre for Mental Health Research, ANU), Associate Professor Alison Clear (Centre for Mental Health Research, ANU), Associate Professor Tim Slade (The Matilda Centre, University of Sydney), Associate Professor Cath Chapman (The Matilda Centre, University of Sydney).		
Project Type: Data Analysis; Survey		
Project Category: Mental Health; Epidemiology		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: Excellent attention to detail, critical thinking, some experience conducting statistical analysis, exceptional written and verbal communication skills, psychology/mental health background desirable.		
Project Keywords: Suicidal behaviour; help-seeking; rural mental health		
Project Description: Suicidal thoughts and behaviours represent a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the Australian population with many people failing to receive help or support. It has been hypothesized that numerous barriers exist that prevent those in need from seeking appropriate help, from increased stigma and stoicism to a lack of knowledge regarding available services. Moreover, several barriers are particularly problematic when faced by the sizable proportion of Australians who live in a non-urban area including those in remote or hard to access regions. However, there is a lack of epidemiological evidence outlining the potential extent of help-seeking behaviours faced by those with suicidal thoughts and behaviours as well as the potential sociodemographic and mental health correlates that facilitate or prevent help seeking behaviours for suicide across urban and non-urban areas in Australia. The current project will require secondary analysis of the 2007 Australian National Survey on Mental Health and Wellbeing, a large population-based survey of 8,841 Australians aged 16-75. The student will undertake a comparative analysis of the prevalence and associations between suicidal thoughts and behaviours, help-seeking behaviours, and location (i.e. major urban, other urban, bounded locality/rural balance/migratory). The project will result in the submission of a publication to a scientific journal reporting on the findings and implications for treatment and services.		