

Mental Health and Wellbeing Screening: Hillcrest Incident, December 2021

31 May 2022

Information Sheet

Dear Hillcrest staff member,

As you will probably know, the children affected by the incident at the school last year have been able to participate in screening to assess the impact this has had on their wellbeing and to offer them assistance if they need this.

For most adults who experience a significant trauma, they make a full recovery within the first 3-6 months with the help of their friends, family, colleagues and loved ones; we usually refer to these people as a person's natural resources. However, this does not occur for all people. It is usually not possible to identify who might be affected differently from others, even when they have experienced the same trauma, nor is it easily possible to identify those who are in need of further assistance. This is where the use of either screening or individual assessments is very helpful to identify those people who may need more assistance.

In view of this, as we approach the 6-month mark since the tragedy last year, we have prepared a short set of questionnaires, much like was done for the children but adapted for adults, that assist in identifying how a person's mental health and wellbeing is currently impacted.

We strongly encourage everyone to participate in the screening, but it is not compulsory. The screening is to provide you with information, and it is held confidentially between you and the screening provider, STAGE-28.

If you wish to participate, then you can access a portal to complete the questionnaires using your smartphone, tablet or computer after which your personal data will be stored on STAGE-28's servers until data collection is complete. When requested by the Department of Health de-identified data will be transferred and held under its data protection policy. The details of how to access the portal will be sent to staff in a follow-up letter later this week.

Nobody outside STAGE-28 or the Tasmanian Department of Health will have access to your data and it will be used only to identify those who should be prioritised for further follow-up and assistance which will be made available by STAGE-28.

We hope this information is useful and encourages you to take part. As with any health service, you are entitled to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you start the screening and do wish to withdraw, either contact Dr John Durkin at STAGE-28 john@stage-28.com or Dr Aaron Groves at Chief.psychiatrist@health.tas.gov.au . If your data has not been processed it will be traced and deleted. If it has been processed your identification and participation record will be deleted.

No harm is anticipated from taking part in this screening. However, if you do have concerns at any point please raise them with Dr John Durkin at the e-mail address above or contact Angela Proposch, Manager of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist at angela.proposch@health.tas.gov.au., or on 6166 0780.



Dr John Durkin

STAGE-28 International



Dr Aaron Groves

Chief Psychiatrist

Department of Health