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14th October 2025

PQ ref 52668/25

To ask the Minister for Health the steps her Department is taking to reduce the rate of male suicide; and the specific supports available to men experiencing mental ill health.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

- An extensive range of mental health supports and services are provided by HSE Adult Mental Health Services, and Child and Adult Mental Health Services. You can read about how these services are strategically developing in [Sharing the Vision, a Mental Health Policy for Everyone](#).
- The HSE and [HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention](#) fund a wide range of community-based organisations and agencies that provide services and supports aligned with Sharing the Vision, and Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide. You can find some details about these types of services and supports here <https://www2.hse.ie/mental-health/services-support/supports-services/> or in the [Annual Reports of the HSE NOSP](#). They include organisations and services such as Samaritans, Pieta, HUGG (Healing Untold Grief



Groups), spunout, GAA Healthy Clubs, LGBT Ireland, Shine, Suicide or Service, Exchange House Travellers Services, MyMind, Aware and Turn2Me.

- Recently in August Minister Mary Butler TD [announced €2 million for new counselling supports for men](#). This is to supplement existing services with a particular focus on encouraging help-seeking among men. It includes additional 15,000 free counselling sessions to be provided to men annually, new pathways developed to simplify access to support to respond to the specific needs and preferences of men, and supports to be made available through GPs and through a national marketing campaign targeting men directly from September 2025. You can read about some of these supports at www.yourmentalhealth.ie/men.
- Men's health – including mental health – is a priority programme for [HSE Health and Wellbeing](#) and within the context of the [National Men's Health Action Plan, 2024-2028](#). Of particular note and in the context of your question, the HSE NOSP is a proud funding partner of key suicide prevention initiatives and projects within Men's Health Week annually, the [Men's Health Forum in Ireland](#), On Feirm Ground, and CAIRDE (Construction Alliance to Reduce Suicide).

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Meehan

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