

Promoting mental health in places of learning and development (the PreHPare initiative)

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Research evidence shows that mental health conditions often start during childhood and adolescence with half of these developing before the age of 18 years.

Conducting research and implementing mental health interventions that target young people can help alleviate unnecessary suffering and promote optimal human development and stable communities. The aim of the PreHPare Special Interest Group (SIG) is to bring together researchers, mental health practitioners and other stakeholders to share experiences, challenges, and best practices pertaining to research and promotion of mental health in places of learning and development. In the context of this SIG, places of learning and development include early childhood development centres, primary schools, secondary schools, universities and other learning environments.

Key objectives

1. To provide a platform for implementation science to advance research and interventions focusing on mental health promotion in places of learning and development.
2. To bring together stakeholders from various higher education institutions to share experiences, challenges, and best practices on mental health promotion in places of learning and development.
3. To train and mentor early career researchers (ECRs) to become experts in the field of youth mental health.

The SIG coordinating team at the University of Limpopo is encouraging anyone interested to join the group for future development of joint activities and projects and to contribute to the forum discussions.