

# ABC News

## Community urged to help cut farm suicide rate

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- [Map: Hamilton 3300](#)

The National Centre for Farmer Health's conference in Hamilton has heard more supportive communities are needed to bring down the suicide rate among farmers.

Dr Anthony Hogan is a research fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University.

Yesterday he told the conference that many farmers feel their position in the community has been devalued.

He says farmers need more help to deal with issues like water use and the environment.

"Actually learning to recognise just how stressful it has been, but in a positive way that opens them up to become educated and to new changes that they could possibly engage with," he said.

"Simply telling people that they need to change, people aren't ready to deal with that, they need to have some time to understand that the rules for how they're living have been changed."