



SUSAN Brumby and Professor John Martin give their presentation on the Sustainable Farm Families program at a symposium in Canada.

Pic: SUPPLIED.

Presentation sees Farm Families program on international agenda

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THE Western District Health Service Sustainable Farm Families program has gone international.

The program was presented and attracted a great deal of interest at the Sixth International Symposium for Public Health and Rural Ecosystems in Saskatoon, Canada last week.

WDHS Director of the National Centre for Farmer Health and Director of Community Services Susan Brumby was invited to Canada to deliver three presentations on the program, relating to delivery, training and outcomes.

One presentation was made with former RMIT Hamilton Associate Professor, now La Trobe University Professor John Martin.

Ms Brumby said the program, started in 2003, was unique in that it combined program delivery and development with

research through university partnerships.

"Sustainable Farm Families was one of a few programs that had both researched the issues and addressed the problem in collaboration with farm families," she said.

"The symposium was excellent and there is great interest in the work we are doing here in Hamilton and Australia," she said.

Ms Brumby said a diverse range of health problems for the agricultural industries were discussed but there was frustration that the underlying causes could not be addressed.

"Improvement in health issues were making limited progress with delegates acknowledging that change is difficult when working with long established cultural behaviours," she said.

Twelve countries were represented and more than 260 presenters from a variety of working backgrounds attended the symposium.