



Scheme growing



Some Lismore participants in the Sustainable Farm Families program are (from left) David Brain, Peter Gardiner and Joe Hirth

THE Sustainable Farm Families program roll-out to its next 1000 farmers is underway, with applications from industry and farm groups being assessed this week.

Applications for the joint Western District Health Service and Department of Primary Industries program roll-out had been "fantastic", SFF principal Sue Brumby said.

Applications closed on

Sustainable Farm Families program applications now being assessed

September 17 and, Ms Brumby, said a panel of four WDHS and DPI representatives would review the applicant groups this week.

Applications had come from across Victoria, including the south-west.

DPI SFF project manager Emily Moule said funding

was available to deliver the program to 1000 farmers across the state and 49 health professionals had been trained.

The SFF program is free and provides 20-minute one-on-one health assessments with trained rural health professionals and two-day

workshops on key health issues such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, men's and women's health, farm safety, nutrition and exercise.

Ms Brumby said the program had been successful in decreasing participant risk factors for major diseases, improved the uptake of farm safety measures and influenced positive behavioural changes, such as farmers taking holidays. — TERRY SIM