



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Mr Dan Tehan
MEMBER FOR WANNON**

MEDIA RELEASE

July 1, 2014

*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM 1.7.14*****

FUNDING TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FARMERS

An innovative programme that seeks to prevent Australian farmers from being injured or dying at work has received a \$375,000 funding boost from the Australian Government.

Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash and Member for Wannon Dan Tehan today announced one-off funding for the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) in Victoria of \$375,000.

The Victorian State Government will also provide funding of \$250,000 to the NCFH.

Minister Nash thanked Mr Tehan for raising the issue and the urgent need for assistance for the NCFH.

“This funding enables the NCFH to continue their work to improve the health, safety and well-being of people living and working in farm communities,” Minister Nash said.

Member for Wannon Dan Tehan welcomed the news and said the grant for the NCFH – a partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University, based in Hamilton (Victoria) – would help it continue to develop and deliver effective rural programmes such as the Sustainable Farm Families Programme, which promotes improved mental health and health outcomes for Australian farming families.

Mr Tehan said that he was pleased that the Coalition Government has listened and decided to extend this funding for this worthy cause.

“Jim Fletcher, CEO of the Western District Health Service, Sue Brumby, the NCFH Director, the Victorian Farmers Federation and the National Farmers Federation have lobbied hard throughout the past year for funding to continue and I congratulate them on their hard work to keep this important service which benefits local farmers,” Mr Tehan said.

Western District Health Service CEO Jim Fletcher said he “would like to congratulate Dan Tehan on his hard work advocating for the NCFH.”

“We are pleased that funding has been provided to ensure the continuation of the excellent work to improve the health, well-being and safety of those who work and live on farms which thereby increases the productivity and sustainability of their business,” Mr Fletcher said.

Minister Nash said people living in rural communities generally experienced higher rates of death, morbidity and chronic disease than Australians in urban or capital city locations.

“The Australian Government is committed to improving access to health services for people living in rural areas and to reducing the risk of injuries and accidents on farms,” she said.

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