

Media Release



Tuesday 1 July, 2014

Crucial funding to support Farmer Health delivered

VICTORIAN farmers have today welcomed a \$625,000 funding announcement by both Federal and State governments to keep the National Centre for Farmer Health alive.

"The VFF has been calling on State and Federal governments to deliver \$500,000 each to this vital rural health service.

"We have fought hard for this funding – it's been one of our key state election priorities. This means that vital initiatives the VFF helped pioneer, such as the Sustainable Farm Families programme can continue.

"Healthy farmers mean productive and profitable farm businesses," Mr Tuohey said.

The National Centre for Farmer Health provides national leadership to improve the health, safety and mental well-being of farm men and women, farm workers, their families and communities across Australia.

"We commend Federal Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan and the State government for listening to our ongoing calls to fund the Centre. We also thank the National Farmers Federation for their ongoing support of the Centre.

"Looking after the physical and mental wellbeing of our farming communities should always be a high priority for government.

"But it's important to note this is only one off funding. We need both State and Federal governments to realise the longevity of the NCFH and to ensure that it is a service farming families can rely on in the future," Mr Tuohey said.

The Centre needs annual funding of \$1million per year to keep operating.

"There's proven support from both sides of government, both state and Federal and even abroad to continue the work of Farmer Health.

"For a Centre and program that is now being adopted and replicated in Canada to simply be abandoned after a year would be baffling," Mr Tuohey said.

The announcement made in Hamilton will see \$375,000 allocated by the Federal Government and \$250,000 contributed by the State government.

The Centre is a partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University and is based in Hamilton, Victoria.

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