

Big lifeline for farmer health

CRITICAL financial support has been given to the National Centre for Farmer Health to enable the continuation of its renowned farmer reach-out program for another year.

The Federal Government has provided \$375,000 together with the State Government \$250,000 to help continue agriculture healthcare programs such as its flagship service Sustainable Farm Families.

While the one-off government grants fall short of the \$1 million annual funding the centre had applied for, NCFH director Susan Brumby said it was a secure platform to continue the agriculture healthcare services.

"This is recognition that farmer health, wellbeing and safety is important in the productivity and resilience and this funding is a clear and unequivocal statement that both sides and all levels of government and the community thinks this is important for the agriculture industry," she said.

Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash and Member for Wannon Dan Tehan announced the one-off funding for the NCFH on Tuesday, which will enable the continuation of some healthcare programs for 12 months.

"Another year (of funding) gives us security going forward to be able to apply for other research grants and be a platform to build on," Mr Brumby said.

The reduced funding will result in a lower number of Sustainable Farm Family programs being offered, however will continue health, lifestyle and safety assessments, research partnerships and the education and training of rural practitioners.

The centre is a partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University.