

# FARM PARTNERSHIP



**DENIS PETERS**

THE National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH), based in Hamilton, has struck a new deal with a major partner to help spread its services and programs more widely among

farming families.

In a memorandum of understanding signed between the centre and Rural Bank, various

programs aimed at improving the health of families on the land will be promoted through the bank.

Rural bank's frontline staff will gain training in how to understand and identify the health, safety and wellbeing issues regularly faced by farmers.

Rural Bank general manager Will Rayner said the deal would implement initiatives identified as priorities by employees and key stakeholders as part of the new partnership.

"Some of these priority areas may include on-farm Occupational Health and Safety, AgriSafe clinics, health and lifestyle assessments in Bendigo Bank or Community Bank branches or at community events and field days, and education and training in agricultural health," Mr Rayner said.

The two partners described the deal as an exciting growth and development phase for the centre.


Further details were expected to be


announced at a formal event at Hamilton Hospital yesterday afternoon.

The centre received a significant lifeline earlier this year when the Labor State Government committed \$1 million to it a year for the term of its government.

The much lauded centre implements a range of programs to support families on farms and has been particularly focused in the past on suicide prevention.

*WEATHER FORECAST*

*TODAY: Partly cloudy, light wind, max 20* 

*FRIDAY: Partly cloudy, max 24* 

SPECTATOR 11/10/2015