

26 June 2012

\$10,000 TO SOW THE SEEDS FOR FARMER HEALTH

The Nationals Member for Lowan Hugh Delahunty said this year's National Centre for Farmer Health Conference is being supported with \$10,000 in Victorian Government funding announced by Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Peter Ryan.

"The Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health conference from 17 – 19 September at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre would build on the success of the inaugural 2010 event by continuing to develop strategies to improve workforce health, well-being and safety in what is a critical economic sector," Mr Delahunty said.

"The conference will provide critical support and professional development for the agribusiness sector, which is a key contributor to the region's economy and employment," Mr Delahunty said.

"Non-farm businesses will also directly benefit from the economic boost brought by international and national visitors, with organisers estimating a \$160,000 return to the local community."

"The conference will address themes such as agriculture in a changing climate, the business of farming, mental health, chronic disease and healthy lifestyles, agricultural hazards and safety, human and animal health; and ageing," Mr Delahunty said.

Mr Delahunty said the audience will include agribusiness professionals and organisations that influence and shape agricultural communities, including agricultural organisations, academics, community members, farmers, health service providers, industry organisations, government departments, local government; and rural professionals.

"The 2010 conference attracted 165 delegates from across Australia and internationally and this year organisers are expecting between 200 and 250 delegates."

"The Victorian Government funding for the *Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health* project would be provided to the Western District Health Service through the Regional Growth Fund's *Putting Locals First Program*."

"Putting Locals First is a \$100 million initiative that enables regional communities to devise and deliver service and infrastructure responses that reflect local priorities."

"It is supporting stronger and more sustainable regional communities by building their capacity to drive development in their region," Mr Delahunty said.

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