



Pru Goward MP
Minister for Mental Health

Andrew Gee MP
Member for Orange

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$19 MILLION FOR CENTRE FOR RURAL AND REMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward was joined by Member for Orange Andrew Gee to announce \$19 million, over the next five years, of mental health funding for the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) and the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program.

Mr Gee said the funding will allow the CRRMH to continue its work, build on its many achievements and continue to provide a voice for issues affecting the mental health of people living in rural and remote areas of NSW.

“The Centre, based right here in the heart of Orange, has consistently been at the forefront of initiatives designed to enhance the mental health of rural and remote communities and to support the work of clinical mental health services in regional communities,” Mr Gee said.

Ms Goward said the funding demonstrates the NSW Government’s continued commitment to improving mental health services for people in rural and remote areas.

“Living and working in rural and regional areas can be a very rewarding way of life. However, people living in these communities often face complex issues, including pressure generated from isolation and limited access to services, rapid social and economic change and other adversities,” Ms Goward said.

“The Centre has played a pivotal role in working to improve mental health in rural communities and I am so pleased that their work will be able to continue for the benefit of all our rural and remote communities in NSW.”

The CRRMH has developed strong evidence for understanding mental health needs and effective responses for people living in rural and remote areas through partnership and clinical leadership, training and the improvement of Mental Health literacy.

CRRMH Director Professor David Perkins said rural people suffer disproportionately from drought, fire, floods and difficulties in accessing service.

“This investment by the NSW Government will enable us to help health service providers to improve the mental health of rural communities by providing better access to support services and by understanding and addressing rural suicide,” Mr Perkins said.

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