

# MEDIA RELEASE



Centre for  
Rural & Remote  
Mental Health

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

## Dubbo hosts Primary Industries and Mental Health 2015 Symposium

Health professionals, researchers, and people who work in farming, mining and quarrying industries will come together to explore the mental health needs and solutions at a special Symposium coming to Dubbo this week.

Director of the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH), Professor David Perkins says the purpose of the Symposium is to exchange ideas on the mental health needs of workers and the rural and remote communities in which industries operate.

“By bringing industry representatives together with researchers, academics and policy makers we hope to establish some key priority areas for applied research and strategic action.

“We have a strong representation from the farming, mining and quarrying sectors in particular where we know mental health services and support are needed.

“Rural communities face hardships such as drought, flood and fire as well as economic problems such as falling commodity prices. At times they are under a great deal of stress and we need to understand and cater for their needs” said Professor Perkins.

Vice President of the National Farmers Federation and keynote speaker, Fiona Simpson, will lead a discussion on Farmers, Families and Mental Health as well as a Question and Answer session.

Other speakers include: General Practitioner from NSW Outback Division of GPs, Deon Heyns, WorkCover Authority Nissa Holliday and Aspen Medical Chair of the Centre for Resources, Health and Safety, University of Newcastle, Brian Kelly.

The Primary Industries and Mental Health 2015 Symposium is a joint collaboration between the UoNs Centre for Resources Health and Safety and the CRRMH kindly supported by Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) and Aspen Medical.

**Details of the Symposium are as follows:**

**WHAT:** Primary Industries and Mental Health 2015 Symposium

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 4, from 9:00am-4:00pm with lunch included

**WHERE:** Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo

(See Invitation and Agenda attached)

For further information, please call Jocie Johnston on 0410549325

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