

Wednesday, 4 March 2020

Farmers Top of Mind in New Health Service

Northern District Community Health (NDCH) will launch a new health service for local farmers in 2020. NDCH CEO Mandy Hutchinson said the AgriSafe™ Clinic, as it will be known, is a service that the organisation has been keen to offer for some time.

“This clinic is all about farmer specific health, wellbeing and safety,” Ms. Hutchinson said. “The AgriSafe™ Clinic looks at the unique health issues related to working in agriculture as part of a comprehensive health assessment, which is why it’s such a win for our community with farming as our backbone.”

AgriSafe™ appointments are 90 minutes long and provide participants with important health information and time for questions with the AgriSafe™ nurse. A comprehensive report of results is sent to the participants GP and can involve referral on to other relevant services and programs if needed.

During 2019, NDCH worked with the National Centre for Farmer Health based in Hamilton and the AgriSafe™ Clinic developer, along with local farmers from Boort and Cohuna, to pilot two AgriSafe™ clinics. “The feedback from farmers was overwhelmingly positive and the success of those clinics was the motivation to secure funding to provide the service into the future for local farmers,” Ms. Hutchinson said.

“There is very specific medical equipment needed in the clinic that costs in excess of \$15,000,” Ms. Hutchinson said. “We are delighted that late last year we were successful in our application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Small and Vital Grants for \$10,000 to help with these equipment purchases.”

This service has also been funded by Gannawarra Shire Council through the Federal Government’s Drought Communities Programme – extension. The AgriSafe™ Clinic was successful in receiving another \$20,000 through this programme to help purchase the clinic’s equipment. This funding also means that the AgriSafe™ Clinic can be provided free of charge, in the short term, to the region’s farmers. Ms. Hutchinson thanked the Gannawarra Shire for their ongoing support and partnership with NDCH in the establishment of the AgriSafe™ Clinic.

Ms. Hutchinson announced that Rosi Bear will be the NDCH Community Health Nurse running the AgriSafe™ Clinic. Mrs. Bear applied for and successfully completed a scholarship to become a qualified AgriSafe™ Clinician specialising in agricultural health and medicine. “Rosi is a partner in a local farming family business and understands farmers and farming issues so is a great asset to this new service,” Ms. Hutchinson said.

“A number of local farmers and organisation supported NDCH’s application to establish the AgriSafe™ Clinic and we thank them enormously for their support,” Ms. Hutchinson said.



Media Release:

The AgriSafe™ Clinic is set to commence in March 2020. To make an appointment at the AgriSafe™ Clinic or for more information call NDCH on 5451 0200.

END RELEASE

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Tanya Maher-Toose, Health Promotion Team Leader at NDCH on Ph. 5451 0200.