

Drought Assistance Initiatives

Name of initiative	Mental Health Early Intervention Teams
Description	<p>The Department of Human Services is strengthening the existing drought response by providing more specialist mental health services in rural Victoria.</p> <p>The capacity of Primary Mental Health Early Intervention Teams will be increased to provide greater access by people with a suspected mental illness to appropriate service and advice before a serious escalation in mental health problems.</p> <p>The additional clinicians will provide a direct care service as well as work with front-line drought counsellors and other rural workers whose outreach role brings them into direct contact with farming families experiencing considerable stress and mental health issues.</p> <p>The additional clinicians will become part of the rural area mental health services (AMHS) and work across the services' catchment areas. The rural AMHS are:</p> <p>Barwon - Geelong and surrounds. Goulburn - Shepparton and surrounds. Gippsland - Warragul, Traralgon, Sale and surrounds. Loddon - Bendigo and surrounds. Glenelg - Warrnambool and surrounds. North East Victoria - Wangaratta, Wodonga and surrounds. Northern Mallee - Mildura and surrounds. Grampians - Ballarat and surrounds.</p>
How to apply / access	Access to clinicians is via referral from other service providers.
Further information	<p>Contact your Regional Department of Human Service Office for further information:</p> <p>Grampians - Tony Lynch on 5333 6680 or John Koopmans on 5333 6020</p> <p>Hume - Narelle Grantham on 5722 0530</p> <p>Loddon Mallee - Michael Oerlemans on 5434 5600</p> <p>Gippsland - Leah Henderson on 5177 2690</p> <p>Barwon Sth Western - Larry Neeson on 5551 3220</p>

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