

PR/019/08

Monday 19 February, 2008.

## Rural Mental Health under the spotlight in Sydney

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) the Hon. Paul Lynch M.P, Lifeline Patron John Brogden and NSW Police Superintendent David Donohue will be among the speakers to address the NSW Farmers' Rural Mental Health Network meeting in Sydney tomorrow.

The Rural Mental Health Network is a group of agencies and individuals who share a common goal to improve the mental health and the wellbeing of farmers and farming communities.

While recent rain has been a very welcome relief for many, flooding and associated damage, high debt levels, high fertiliser and sowing costs are contributing to the ongoing pressure faced by farmers.

**Date: Tuesday 19 February, 2008**

**Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Location: NSW Farmers' Association Boardroom, Level 25, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney**

Groups to be represented at the meeting include:

- NSW Farmers' Association
- Alliance of NSW Divisions
- Anglicare
- Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
- Australian Rotary Health Fund
- *Beyondblue*
- Black Dog Institute
- Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health
- Centrelink
- Council of Social Services, NSW
- Counsellors and Psychotherapists Association of NSW
- Country Women's Association of NSW
- Department of Primary Industries
- Lifeforce Suicide Prevention Program
- NSW Nurses' Association
- Presentation Sisters Rural Outreach Service
- Rehabilitation Counsellors Association
- Rural Lands Protection Board State Council/CRRMH
- Suicide Safety Network
- The Salvation Army
- Uniting Church
- YWCA NSW

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie will open the meeting at 10am with a comprehensive overview of the current situation and key stresses facing NSW farmers and rural communities.

**Media is welcome to attend.**

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