

MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, 20 October 2016

RAMHP appoints new Coordinator based in Grafton

The Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) has announced the appointment of Samantha Osborne as the new RAMHP Coordinator working across both the Northern NSW and Mid-North Coast Local Health Districts.

Ms Osborne holds a BA (Social Work) from the University of NSW and has a background working in clinical and community mental health.

Ms Osborne's previous experience includes Acting Manager of Orange Community Health and Allied Health Services as well as over ten years' experience as Senior Social Worker with the Clarence Valley Mental Health Services working in the youth and family mental health program.

More recently Ms Osborne has been Manager of Clarence Valley Mental Health Services. Her experience also includes teaching at TAFE NSW.

RAMHP's Executive Manager Programs and Services, Trevor Hazell, said the decision to appoint a new RAMHP Coordinator based out of Grafton was due to both the size and rise in populations in both these local health districts as well as the higher rates of suicide and incidents of self-harm.

"We want to help our communities to be better educated and informed about mental health concerns, so they can help each other. If someone is experiencing a mental health concern, we want them to be able to find help and recover.

"Samantha brings significant experience to this position including coordination, education communication and networking skills.

"Her comprehensive knowledge and understanding of rural mental health will be a great asset to RAMHP and future directions." said Mr Hazell.

Director Mental Health, Northern NSW LHD Richard Buss said Samantha's management experience in mental health combined with her local knowledge and connections are highly beneficial for the RAMHP program.

"Having an experienced RAMHP coordinator on the ground linking agencies and people to care is important for these communities" Mr Buss said.

Samantha is based in Grafton, NSW and can be contacted on p: 02 66418250 and e: Samantha.Osborne@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

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