

# Media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Saleyards support for farmers as part of Farm Safety Week

THE Clarence Valley Council, in partnership with the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) and the Rural Resilience Program, Department of Primary Industry, will launch a new initiative at the Grafton Saleyards on July 18 as part of National Farm Safety Week (July 17-23).

Under the initiative, a permanent information stand will be installed at the Grafton Saleyards to give locals essential information on mental health services in their area, tips for finding and providing help, as well as fact sheets and other easy-reference resources.

RAMHP coordinator Samantha Osborne said the establishment of the stand tied in with the 2017 National Farm Safety theme: 'Creating a resilient, safe and healthy ag community'.

"We know that farmers and their families continue to face huge challenges living in the bush and often don't know where to go to find help," Ms Osborne said.

"By providing this permanent information stand, we can provide current up-to-date information on what services are available in their local area and what they can do if they or someone they know is experiencing mental health issues."

Clarence Valley mayor, Jim Simmons, said council was pleased to support the initiative and encouraged people to attend.

"You don't need to be a grazier to attend," he said.

"If you're involved in any sort of agricultural activity you will be more than welcome."

Cr Simmons said the Rural Resilience Program worked across rural NSW with a range of stakeholders to build resilience in farming communities.

"Focusing on farmer health and wellbeing are integral to the work the program does as it listens, learns and links to create opportunities for farming communities.

"Nationally in 2016 more people died in accidents on farms than in the mining and construction sectors combined. Farming is dangerous and we want as many people as possible to learn how to minimise the risks."

Clarence Valley rural resilience officer, Jen Haberecht, said that since 2001 more than 230 Australians had been killed in quad bike accidents, many of them on farms.

“A big focus will be improving safety in that area,” she said.

If you're concerned about yourself or someone else's mental health you can call the Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 (free call for landlines) or Lifeline on 13 11 14. If you or someone is in immediate danger call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.

Release ends.

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**For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.**