

Rural Counselling and Support Services

1. Rural Counselling, Health and Support Services

- **Rural Business Support;** <http://www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au/>
- **Farmer Physical and Mental Health;** <http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/support>
- **Suicide Information;**
 - a. <http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/research-centre/the-ripple-effect>
<http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/drought-support>
 - b. Suicide Line; [1300 651 251](https://www.suiceline.org.au/); <https://www.suiceline.org.au/>
 - c. Institute of Male Health; <http://aimhs.com.au/cms/index.php?page=facts-about-suicide>
- **National Rural Health Alliance;** <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/>
- **Children;**
 - a. **Kids Help Line;** <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>
 - b. **Child grief;** <http://earlytraumagrieff.anu.edu.au/>
- **Depression and Anxiety;**
 - a. **Lifeline;** [13 11 14](https://www.lifeline.org.au/); <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>
 - b. **Beyond Blue;** [1300 22 4636](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/); <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>
 - c. Australia Counselling; <https://www.australiacounselling.com.au/>
- **Local Government** – for local counselling services
- **Rural and Remote Health;** <http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/rural-and-remote-health>
- **Rural Mental Health Resources;** <http://www.mindhealthconnect.org.au/rural-remote-mental-health>
- **Rural Men's Support;**
 - a. Men's Shed; menshed.org/Find-A-Shed
- **Rural Women's Support;**
 - a. National Rural Women's Coalition (& Network) <http://www.nrwc.com.au/>
 - b. Rural Women's Network NSW; <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/content/rwn/links>
 - c. WIRE; <http://www.wire.org.au/>
 - d. The Farm Table; <http://www.thefarmtable.com.au/australian-agriculture-rural-women/>
 - e. Country Women's Association; <http://www.cwaa.org.au/>

2. Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/assistancerural-financial-counselling-service>

The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides free rural financial counselling to a range of clients, including dairy farmers, who are suffering financial hardship. Contact details for counsellors across Australia are below. The Australian Government has recently announced an additional nine Rural Financial Counsellors in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and New South Wales to work in areas impacted by the drop in dairy prices.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides free rural financial counselling to farmers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and harvesters, and small, related businesses who are suffering financial hardship. There are 12 service providers across Australia that employ rural financial counsellors to assist clients in need across Australia. The RFCS Programme is funded by the Australian, State and Northern Territory Governments.

3. How to access the RFCS

Rural financial counsellors are a mobile workforce who come to you. They can:

- help identify your financial and business options
- help negotiate with your lenders
- help you develop an action plan
- help support you to access the Farm Household Allowance (FHA)
- give you information about government and other assistance schemes
- refer you to accountants, agricultural advisers and educational services
- refer you to Department of Human Services and to professionals for succession planning, family mediation and personal, emotional and social counselling.

Rural financial counsellors do not provide family, emotional or social counselling or financial advice—but they can provide referrals and information.

The counsellor will provide financial options and support to help you make the right decision for your business.

4. Find a rural financial counsellor

For details of your nearest rural financial counsellor, select your state below or phone 1800 686 175

- [NSW rural financial counsellor contact list](#)
- [NSW rural financial counselling service map](#)

- [Queensland rural financial counsellor contact list](#)
- [Queensland rural financial counselling service map](#)

- [SA-NT rural financial counsellor contact list](#)
- [SA-NT rural financial counselling service map](#)

- [Tasmanian rural financial counsellor contact list](#)
- [Tasmanian rural financial counselling service map](#)




- [Victorian rural financial counsellor contact list](#)
- [Victorian rural financial counselling service map](#)

- [WA rural financial counsellor contact list](#)
- [WA rural financial counselling service map](#)

5. Summary of changes to boundaries and services



Boundaries have changed for the RFCS Programme in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland from 1 April 2016 as illustrated in the maps below.

If you are a client and your counsellor changes, your existing counsellor will discuss this matter with you first.

- [NSW](#)  PDF [1.4 MB]
- [VIC](#)  PDF [886 KB]
- [QLD](#)  PDF [628 KB]

6. RFCS administration

RFCS service providers should adhere to the RFCS 2016 to 2019 Grant Guidelines.

- [RFCS 2016 to 2019 guidelines](#)  Word [1.6 MB]
- [RFCS 2016 to 2019 guidelines](#)  PDF [804 KB]

Information for RFCS providers and their staff is provided under RFCS administration resources through a password protected [sharepoint web page](#).

7. Contact details

Rural Financial Counselling Service
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

[Email RFCS](#)

Call 1800 686 175 for queries relating to the RFCS programme

Contact: Email

Call 1800 900 090

[About the department](#)

[Media inquiries](#)