

MEDIA RELEASE

RAW TO SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES ON THE MAINLAND TO DEVELOP LOCAL RURAL SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The CEO of Rural Alive and Well (RAW), Liz Little, thanked the Grenet Foundation for providing RAW with seed funding to support rural communities on the mainland to develop rural suicide prevention and mental health well-being services similar to RAW.

Ms Little said “RAW regularly receives requests to establish on the mainland, however the two evaluation reports that we are releasing show that the strength of our program lies in local community ownership. People trust in what we do and how we do it... they feel that they can talk to RAW, that we listen, we hear, and we work with them to help solve their problems and support them in their home and community.

We are delighted that the Grenet Foundation have provided us with sufficient funds to assist two or three rural communities across Australia to establish their own ‘RAW-like’ organisations. We are currently talking with groups in both South Australia and Victoria about our capacity to partner with and mentor them as they too grapple with suicide prevention and enhancing mental health and well-being in their own rural and regional communities.”

Ms Little continued “RAW in partnership with the University of Tasmania has undertaken evaluations of both our Outreach Program and our Healthy and Resilient Communities program. These evaluations have highlighted that our work in rural communities building on and strengthening networks and community capacity is effective and consistent with rural peoples’ pride in their own independence and resilience... when tough times hit they know that RAW and their other ‘mates’ will be there to support them.

The evaluations have identified a number of strategies that will allow RAW to strengthen and improve our programs in Tasmania. We are delighted to now also have the capacity to share our knowledge and experience with other communities across Australia.”

The evaluations referred to above can be found on the RAW website at www.rawtas.com.au from Friday 4th May.

**TALK TO A MATE - 1300 HELP MATE (1300 4357 6283)
24HR / 7 DAYS - STATEWIDE**

Contact: Liz Little 0427 153 364

Thursday 3rd May 2018

