



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

December 15, 2017

Maranoa MP secures new alcohol and drug support in Kingaroy

AT Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud's community ICE forum in Kingaroy in June, it was clear the community needed more support so the MP secured an additional clinical worker for the region and a new alcohol and drug support program, known as Flourish, launched today.

"That's why I held these forums – to connect the community with government departments to establish what was, and wasn't, working in different regions. I'm glad local voices were heard and the Darling Downs and West Moreton Primary Health Network (PHN) allocated additional services for a better targeted approach in the Kingaroy region," Mr Littleproud said.

Mr Littleproud secured PHN funding – the Federal Government's healthcare local funding facilitator – through the government's National Ice Action Strategy.

"This funding means we not only have a new clinical worker Kingaroy but also Flourish – a new, intensive day-therapy program – is currently being trialled in Kingaroy and Lowood in collaboration with Lives Lived Well and EACH," he said.

"This intensive non-residential rehab model will allow people to stay in their communities while they learn about themselves and their addiction, develop strategies for a healthier future and be better positioned to manage the ongoing issues that arise related to drug and alcohol use.

"I made sure the PHN attended my forums and it became clear there was a need for new drug and alcohol treatment service for the South Burnett.

"This service boost is a great starting point, we still need more support for rural communities and I will continue to work to ensure services continue to improve."

While these new services were officially launched today, the program has been operating in Kingaroy since mid-October with help already being sought by locals.

"Lives Lived Well told me they're already experiencing a strong demand for their services in Kingaroy, especially from men aged about 30 and about 70% of adults who make contact are seeking help for ICE use," Mr Littleproud said.

“As a father of three boys, the ICE scourge scares me because I've heard the heart-breaking stories of parents who watch helplessly as their children suffer the horrific consequences of addiction – that's why a targeted approach is so important and why I'm so passionate about better services in the bush.”

After participating in Mr Littleproud's Maranoa Regional ICE Forum series earlier this year, Sunrise Way Rehabilitation also recognised the need for new models of therapy delivery in our rural communities and developed the Flourish program.

Toowoomba-based Sunrise Way has offered residential rehab for people across the region for 3.5 years.

Flourish is being trialled in Kingaroy and Lowood until June 30, 2018.

Want to know more?

- Lives Lived Well: www.liveslivedwell.org.au or phone 1300 727 957.
- Sunrise Way: Phone 4638 9091.

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