



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

April 15, 2019

David Littleproud MP secures \$1.53 million for new Headspace centre and youth mental health programs in Roma

A NEW headspace office will open in Roma thanks to \$1.53 million in Coalition Federal Government funding announced today by Maranoa MP David Littleproud.

“It’s anticipated about three new jobs will be created from this funding with headspace to provide face-to-face information, support and services to young people – aged 12 to 25 years – and their families and friends with everything from mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drug services, work, school and study support,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Support for young people and mental health is one of the biggest issues raised with me and that’s why I’ve secured this new facility to help – headspace works closely with young people at a crucial time in their lives to help get them on track and strengthen the ability to manage their mental health in the future.

“One in four people aged 16 to 24 experience some form of mental illness every year and three-quarters of all mental illness manifests in people under the age of 25 so early intervention is key.”

Mr Littleproud said the Coalition Federal Government has established a \$503.1 million Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan as a key national priority.

“This new headspace service in Roma is part of our Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan and will not only help the town but our entire region,” he said.

“headspace helps you to access the type of support you need – this could be a GP, psychologist, social worker, alcohol and drug worker, counsellor, vocational worker or youth worker.

“You can visit a headspace centre no matter how big or small your problem may seem – I just want our young people to know there is help available, and that you’re never alone.”

Mr Littleproud secured funding through the Western Queensland Primary Health Network – the Federal Government’s healthcare local funding facilitator – for a new headspace at Roma.

In addition to the \$1.5 million in grant funding, the new headspace will be able to access Medicare funding for eligible services provided. The new service is set to open by the middle of next year.

Fast facts:

- The new Roma headspace is set to open by June 2020.
- In 2017-18, almost 20,000 young Queenslanders accessed headspace services.
- Headspace's a safe place to turn to, somewhere young people can get professional help, peer-support and feel comfortable enough to tackle challenges in a way that's right for them.
- The Coalition Federal Government is prioritising better mental health for all Australians with a record \$4.8 billion expected to be spent on mental health this financial year alone.

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