



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

### More mental health support in the bush

Maranoa MP David Littleproud represents almost half of Queensland and said one of the most common issues raised was better access to mental health – a concern set to be targeted by the Coalition Federal Government’s \$503.1 million Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re in Warwick or Winton, Crows Nest or Cunnamulla to St George and Stonehenge, mental health and the tragedy of youth suicide touches far too many families in our community and that’s why we’re making this investment,” Mr Littleproud said.

“This government’s \$503.1 million Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan represents the single largest investment in youth suicide prevention in the country’s history, as part of our record investment of \$4.8 billion in mental health services.

“It’s estimated one in five people experience a common mental disorder each year. Nearly half of our population will experience mental illness at some point in their lives, but less than half will access treatment.

“We’re going through a tough time as drought also impacts on mental health and this is an important topic which needs to be discussed because – when it’s spoken about – conversation pours light on an issue which some associate with darkness. Through conversation comes healing and hopefully provides time for help and assistance.

“This government is serious about mental health services because I also advocated for those who live in rural and remote communities to have access to counselling services through Medicare-funded telehealth appointments, making it easier to access support in the bush.

“Now we can also access online videoconferencing with consultants such as psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists can now be claimed through Medicare.”

### Fast facts: Mental health support

- \$20.4 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service for rural and remote mental health services.
- Providing \$1.45 billion to Primary Health Networks for mental health services and creating new adult mental health centres to provide advice.
- Creating of a new Headspace centre in Roma to assist and support youth mental health in the region.
- \$98.6 million for Beyond Blue to rollout the Mental Health in Education initiative.

- Partnering with Indigenous communities to address mental health and suicide prevention.
- Supporting rural communities to access Medicare-funded mental health consultations through videoconferencing and telehealth.
- Additional funding for communities affected by natural disasters and ensuring help is available 24/7, through free online or telephone services.

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