

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-247

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: FARM LINK

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Senator Boyce asked:

Do you have a list of all of the projects that are funded under Farm Link, where they are and what their staffing is?

Answer:

The University of Newcastle is funded \$321,299 (GST Exclusive) in 2010-11 by the Department of Health and Ageing to implement the Farmlink project.

The work of the project includes:

- improving mental health referral pathways for the farming sector;
- mental health first aid training for frontline agricultural workers; and
- facilitating rural health support service networks.

To date most of the work has occurred in Moree, Narrabri and Inverell. Recently the project started working in Armidale and Glen Innes and their surrounding catchments.

The staffing complement of the project is:

- one full time Coordinator based in Newcastle;
- one full time Deputy Coordinator based in Inverell;
- one part time Senior Clinical Project Officer based in Inverell; and
- access to a psychiatrist who works part time for the project and is based at Tamworth but also works for the Hunter new England Local Health Network.