



RFCS future focus

May 2007 budget edition

Budget provides \$45 million for rural financial counselling

The 2007-08 federal budget has provided \$45 million over four years to the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Program.

The new money secures the future of rural financial counselling beyond the current funding period, which ends on 30 June 2008. Importantly, the new funding will also continue to alleviate the need for rural communities to provide their own funding and resources in support of the program.

The Office of Rural Financial Counselling will conduct a grants application round later in 2007 to select the service providers who will deliver rural financial counselling services across Australia for the next funding period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2011. More information about the grant application process will be available at the appropriate time.

The new funding will also provide up to five more rural financial counsellors and other resources to help service providers in 2007-08 meet the increased demand from irrigators and farming communities in the southern Murray-Darling Basin. Service providers in the areas of highest need will be asked to submit a proposal for this additional funding.

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