

Position Paper – Health and Well-Being

The Issues and Our Position

Our members are often located in isolated environments with limited ability to regularly interact in off-farm settings and within broader community settings. This social isolation can add to the other stressors associated with the competitive and challenging farming business environment.

NT Farmers recognises that, for the health and well-being of its members, social connectivity and ongoing access to a range of support services is extremely important. This is even more the case when businesses or the sector are under particular stress due to regulatory, biosecurity, market or seasonal impacts.

Our Position

NT Farmers recognises the importance of not only supporting the technical, business and operational needs of members but also facilitating strong social and community connectivity to support the health and well-being of industry participants.

Our Commitment

NT Farmers will:

- support social events and appropriate interest groups (ie: RUOK?) for members in order to facilitate strong community connections;
- work collaboratively with other interest groups to facilitate and promote the availability and access to support and counselling services, including financial counselling for all members;
- work toward improving communications infrastructure to enable remote and isolated members to maintain social, community and family communications and connections; and
- work with regulators and government agencies to ensure that they incorporate appropriate recognition of the business, operational, financial, social and emotional implications of their actions when engaging with our members – particularly during stressful and challenging events or incidents such as biosecurity and natural disaster incidents.

Our Expectations

NT Farmers seeks and expects:

- government agencies to specifically demonstrate understanding and compassion in their engagement with our members - particularly during challenging events such as biosecurity and natural disaster incidents;
- engagement with NT Farmers in advance of any changes that may negatively impact on growers so that appropriate support mechanisms and services can be established and rolled out in a timely manner; and
- continued support and funding for rural and farm counselling and social wellbeing programs.

Our Agenda Items

- Promotion of available counselling and support services in rural and remote communities.
- Collaboration with other interest groups to improve availability of support services.
- Improved communications infrastructure to ensure robust and effective electronic connectivity for remote and rural communities.

- Improved government agency engagement practices that recognise and respond to social, financial, business and emotional impacts of programs – particularly forced interventions (ie: biosecurity response plans, immigration and labour).