
RuralCONNECT

NEWSLETTER

Supporting
remote families
and their
children in far
western NSW



Welcome to the RuralCONNECT Newsletter

The RuralCONNECT project is a joint program designed by Contact and Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section (RFDS SE) to seek ways to better support families with young children living in rural and remote parts of north-western NSW, areas previously serviced by Paroo Contact Children's Mobile.



Project Officer, Helen Ponder, has been busily connecting with families with young children and identifying child and family agencies that operate in the region.

So far, connections have been made with 24 families which includes 46 children aged between 0 (birth) and 13 years. All of these families have shared their need for ongoing support and social interactions with other families and their children; their need for access to early childhood programs and child and family supports and their desire for the reinstatement of Paroo Contact Children's Mobile (PCCM) service. Some families in the area have also requested access to child screening and some parents have also observed their children showing some signs of anxiety when in a group setting as they have not had much social interactions with others due to COVID19 and geographic isolation.

Based on the feedback provided, we are now planning a range of activities in addition to offering information about relevant child and family agencies and supports available to the region. As a response to requests from families, we are continuing our links with PCCM Committee in efforts to reinstate this service and are planning child and family activity days in Louth, Wanaaring and Tilpa in the coming months.

RuralCONNECT is delighted to offer a 12-month scholarship for someone in the region towards the costs of obtaining a Children's Services, Community Services or Nursing qualification. Funding will be made available towards educational costs (exception of HECS fees or loans) linked to the course requirements complemented by access to professional mentoring opportunities for the successful applicant.

Featured in this newsletter is an introduction to two of the RFDS SE Child and Family Mental Health team members, Ali Lloyd and Leslie Harvey. If you would like to meet with Ali and Lesley and learn more about how they can assist you, we are planning a facilitated videoconferencing Family Link-up session after the September/October school holidays so you can join in and have a further chat with them.

We have set-up a RuralCONNECT [Facebook page](#) and you can keep up to date with RuralCONNECT on Facebook and our mailing list.

Until next time, thank you for engaging in RuralCONNECT - we look forward to continuing to be in touch.



RFDS SE would like to introduce Ali Lloyd and Lesley Harvey who are part of our Child and Family Mental Health team. As Clinicians, their role is to support children, young people and their families experiencing a range of difficulties that may be impacting on their social and emotional wellbeing by working one on one with children, young people

and their families in a therapeutic manner. Ali and Lesley can also liaise and work with local early childhood services, schools and other services in the Far West as a complementary community focus, to provide a co-ordinated approach to support. Both Ali and Lesley bring a breadth of experience and expertise in the child and family field as well as their own special interests and experiences. Ali has a background in social work and a keen interest in music (African [djembe] drumming) and Lesley has a background in teaching and is a qualified Play Therapist.

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RuralCONNECT Alerts

Look out in your inbox for further information about the RuralCONNECT Facebook invitation and link. We invite you to join the RuralCONNECT [Facebook](#) group as another way to link-up with families in the region and keep in touch with RuralCONNECT happenings.

RuralCONNECT Scholarship

If you live within the PCCM service delivery region encompassing some areas of Bourke, Central Darling or Unincorporated Local Government areas or know someone that maybe interested in the scholarship, we would welcome an [application](#).

RuralCONNECT Family Link-up

To learn more about the RFDS SE Child And Family Mental Health services provided by Ali Lloyd and Lesley Harvey, why not join in a planned October video conferencing Family Link-up session with Ali and Lesley. A promotional flyer will be sent out to alert you of this event as well as details about the date, time and how to connect.

