



## MEDIA RELEASE

### DROUGHT CENTRE OPENED LAST WEEK IN CEDUNA

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Rural Financial Counselling Service SA Inc (RFCSSA) along with other Government services opened a trial drought centre in Ceduna last week. RFCSSA is free, confidential, and independent of government and financial institutions.

RFCSSA general manager Kay Matthias said today that the drought centre opening went well.

"Although we did not see a large number of clients, we did not expect to on the first day. However, farmers in the area are now aware of the fact that we will be in Ceduna on a regular basis and we expect that numbers will increase over time given the state of farming in the area.

"The feedback received was outstanding. Once again clients are really pleased to have that "one stop shop" approach where they can see not only a rural financial counsellor, but a health care worker as well as a Centrelink officer. It really facilitates the process of reaching an outcome for a client", she said.

The next opening of the Ceduna Drought Centre will be on the 17 and 18 December and a greater attendance is anticipated, with many clients contacting the Service to inquire about further availability.

The drought service centre is located at Shop 7, Surprys Mall, 35 Poynton St, Ceduna, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Office.

RFCSSA has two very skilled rural financial counsellors working on Eyre Peninsula, Jackie Field and Paula Kelly.

Jackie has worked as an accountant, a financial controller and a small business manager. She has a Diploma of Community Services (Financial Counselling), Advanced Diploma in Accounting and has lived in a rural community for 19 years.

Paula has lived in small rural communities all of her life and has lived on the Eyre Peninsula for approximately 30 years. She has had various jobs; in the banks, a farm consultant, working with children with learning difficulties with DECS at Wudinna, and as a Finance Officer at Lock Area School. She has completed the Diploma of Community Services (Financial Counselling).

Jackie is located in Port Neill, while Paula is located at Wudinna and also spends time at Streaky Bay.

Clients wishing to make an appointment to see a rural financial counsellor can phone the RFCSSA freecall hotline number of 1800 836 211.

**ENDS**

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