



MEDIA RELEASE – 3 DECEMBER 2008

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE STILL IN HIGH DEMAND

Rural financial counsellors are preparing for a heavier workload as farmers finish harvest and start the 2009 bank review process.

Kay Matthias, General Manager of Rural Financial Counselling Service SA Inc (RFCSSA) said today that workloads across South Australia have not reduced due to the ongoing drought conditions in most areas.

"We had anticipated a slowing down once harvest had finished, but with ongoing climate variability it is expected that the Service will remain in high demand, particularly during this period of bank reviews," she said.

RFCSSA has had a 62% increase in client numbers last year and it is expected that this trend will continue in 2009 unless there are exceptional seasonal conditions next year.

Since its establishment on 1 September 2006, RFCSSA has developed a flexible model of service delivery to ensure that clients' needs are met as quickly as possible and there is a more cohesive team environment. Rural financial counsellors work as a team and can travel all around South Australia as required, enabling the Service to respond quickly and efficiently to areas requiring urgent attention. RFCSSA also provides a rural financial counselling service to the Northern Territory.

Currently RFCSSA has 14 highly qualified rural financial counsellors with offices in 10 locations including Murray Bridge, Berri, Clare, Kadina, Magill, Struan, Wudinna, Streaky Bay, Port Neill and Ceduna, (which opens two days per month on a trial basis).

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

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