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## Rural counselling service gets \$54m funding lifeline

By Mary Goode and David Lewis

Posted 32 minutes ago

**The Federal Government has confirmed funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service will be continued.**

Funding is due to run out in July and counsellors have been lobbying for its renewal.

The service will continue operating after securing funding for the next four years.

The Federal Government has allocated \$54.9 million to keep it going.

Federal Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig says it is important the service continues in the wake of the summer floods and cyclone.

"The funding commitment will provide certainty for employment for the rural financial counsellors but the real value is being able to support regional Australia, support remote Australia with their free financial counselling service," he said.

Mr Ludwig says the service has been popular across a number of regional industries.

"It's one of those areas which is vital to the rural communities," he said.

"Last year, they provided over 10,000 information services for farming, fishermen and small businesses."

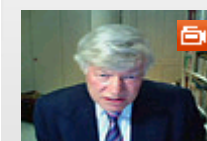
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