



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, 5 April 2018

SCHOOL NURSE PILOT PROGRAM EXPANDS TO SOUTHERN NSW

Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Deputy Premier and Southern NSW Bronnie Taylor joined representatives from Snowy Hydro Ltd in Tumut today to announce funding for a new full-time nursing position to be based at Tumut High School.

The new full-time position is part of NSW Government's Wellbeing and Health In-Reach Nurse Coordinators pilot program aimed at improving education, health and social outcomes for young people in regional NSW.

Mr Maguire said two new nursing coordinator positions would be trialled in Tumut and Cooma over the next two years, thanks to \$520,000 in funding from Snowy Hydro Ltd.

"There are fewer things more important than the health and wellbeing of our kids and this new nursing position in Tumut will be a frontline position, making sure we identify the health and wellbeing needs of our kids and in turn respond with care and appropriate services they deserve," Mr Maguire said.

"While this position is based at Tumut High School and will be an invaluable resource for students and their families, the role will also cover local primary schools in Talbingo, Tumbarumba, Khancoban and Adaminaby.

"This generous funding from Snowy Hydro is whole-heartedly supported by the NSW Government. We want this trial to succeed so we can roll this program out to communities right across regional NSW," he said.

Ms Taylor said the partnership between Snowy Hydro and the NSW Government to employ dedicated Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurses (WHIN) is part of a two-year trial that has been extended to Tumut to make sure kids in Southern NSW have the skills they need to build a resilient future.

"Mental health and wellbeing is vital for our students to be able to reach their full potential and succeed throughout their education," Ms Taylor said.

"We know that health and social issues can make it difficult for children and young people to attend school and engage with the curriculum.



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“It is crucial that we continue to invest in the mental health and wellbeing of regional students and ensure we protect the most vulnerable students in our classrooms.

“Families are busy, and travelling to appointments to see health workers can mean time off school for students and time away from work for parents.

“This plan will see essential health services as well as preventive and early intervention services made more accessible on school grounds,” she said.

Snowy Hydro’s CEO Paul Broad said he was pleased to be a corporate partner for the pilot program.

“This initiative is closely aligned with the company’s core values of safety and wellbeing,” Mr Broad said.

“We’ve been a proud member of the Snowy Mountains community for almost 70 years. The health and wellbeing of not only our workforce but their families and wider community is important to us,” he said.

Services that will be available through the Wellbeing Hub include counselling services, child and adolescent mental health services, drug and alcohol services, sexual health services and allied health services, including dietetics and speech therapy.

The Snowy Hydro Nurse Coordinators will form part of a NSW pilot program which includes a WHIN Coordinator in Young, Cooma and Tumut.