

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

1 July 2020

Vital support flowing for grass roots health care providers

Five health care providers in Central Queensland are among the first to benefit from a \$28 million fund established to support Queensland's community-based health service groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said it was critical to provide support to the most vulnerable in our community.

"In the first round of this initiative, we have supported five organisations by directly allocating \$436,000 funding to ensure individuals experiencing/needing these services can access them during this difficult time.

"It is critical that we back our community support services during these difficult times as they respond rapidly to the widespread impact of the virus in Queensland."

Ms Lauga said demand on community-based health service groups is expected to spike during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to factors such as financial difficulties and social distancing restrictions.

"Many services have rapidly had to change the way they operate to keep up with demand while also adhering to social distancing restrictions, making it difficult to continue their programs in the same way.

"This funding will assist community-based organisations to adapt the way they deliver support, such as through telehealth services, and also respond to increased demand on their services during and after the pandemic," she said.

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Services to be delivered from the grants include:

- **Artius Health** was awarded a COVID-19 grant to set up telehealth services in Woorabinda to allow remote delivery of health services needed as a result of the isolation of the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Centacare: Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton** was awarded grant funding to develop counselling supports that support clients to focus in on their specific areas of need (including financial stress and self-care in a changed environment) while recovering from the impact of COVID-19 on communities.
- **Central Queensland Rural Division of General Practice Assn Inc** through the COVID-19 grant fund will allow CQRH clinicians to deliver additional mental health services in Rockhampton and surrounding rural areas for people whose mental health has been impacted due to social isolation caused by COVID-19.
- **Marie Stopes International's** funding has been provided to ensure continued service delivery in Central Queensland through chartered flights and accommodation to transport clinicians from Brisbane while commercial airline services are scaled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Australian Breastfeeding Association** grant fund is to purchase IT equipment to support online service delivery during COVID-19, and translation of existing video resources into Mandarin, Arabic and Vietnamese languages.

PHOTO: Brittany Lauga with the Australian Breastfeeding Association Breastfeeding Counsellor Pauline Delaney

ENDS

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