



RFCS future focus

May 2006 budget edition

Budget provides extra \$9.72 million for rural financial counselling

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Program has received \$9.72 million in extra funding over two years in the 2006-07 federal budget.

This funding is in addition to the \$23.3 million provided in the 2004-05 budget.

The new money will ease the burden on rural communities of finding matching cash contributions. This supports a key finding of the 2004 Review of the program which stated that many communities in need of rural financial counselling were the least able to find the required funding. Community funding, particularly in-kind, is encouraged but will no longer be mandatory.

The extra funding will enable the RFCS Program to introduce the new service delivery arrangements announced in March 2006 by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Peter McGauran MP. These arrangements include the work of the national rural financial counselling facilitator and the operation of the state advisory committees.

The RFCS Program remains funded to 30 June 2008.

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