



1 December 2016

Donato to MPs: "Join me to save Lifeline Central West"

Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party Member for Orange Philip Donato today called on the National Party Member for Dubbo and Member for Bathurst to join him to save Lifeline Central West from \$800,000 in funding cuts over four years. The cuts, reported in the Central Western Daily on November 24, arose from Lifeline's Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst services being treated as a single entity.

Mr Donato wrote to Troy Grant and Paul Toole to seek their support for his push to maintain the funding of this service.

"Mental health crisis services are vital to rural communities," Mr Donato said.

"According to the NSW Mental Health Commission, people in rural areas are 1.2 to 2.4 times more likely to complete suicide than those living in the city.

"I'm concerned that Lifeline Central West will actually see an increase in patronage from cost of living pressures and the potential job losses that are flagged from job cuts by Essential Energy and those arising from forced Council amalgamations.

"When the Premier went ahead with the greyhound racing ban earlier this year, Lifeline's 13 11 14 hotline number was cited at the bottom of the press release. Now defunding these services is a further insult to people living in the bush," he said.

Mr Donato said that he knew that Troy Grant and Paul Toole did not want to see the Central West's Lifeline cut.

"I know that deep down Mr Grant and Mr Toole wouldn't really support funding cuts to vital services in their electorates. As Parliamentary Members of the Central West, we need to band together to say that we won't stand for budget and service cuts.

"I certainly won't stand for this in Orange and will continue to fight it."

MEDIA CONTACT:

Philip Donato

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SHOOTERS FISHERS and FARMERS



123 Byng Street
ORANGE NSW 2800

1 December 2016

The Hon Paul Toole MP
Suites 1 and 2
229 Howick Street
BATHURST NSW 2795

Dear Mr Toole,

Funding Cuts for Lifeline Central West

I know that as Member for Bathurst you are concerned about rural crisis services in your community.

You would have seen reported recently in the Central Western Daily that Lifeline Central West is having \$800,000 in funding cut over four years - placing this vital service at risk. This comes after the Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo services being funded under a single banner, rather than individually - as they clearly operate.

Mental health crisis services are vital in the bush. According to the NSW Mental Health Commission, people in rural areas are 1.2 to 2.4 times more likely to complete suicide than those living in the city.

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As Member for Bathurst, will you join me in calling funding to be restored to this service? As elected representatives of the Central West, we should work together to get the best for the people we represent.

I have also written to Troy Grant, the Member for Dubbo, with the same request.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philip Donato MP
Member for Orange
Parliament of New South Wales

SHOOTERS, FISHERS and FARMERS Party

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www.shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au |   

SHOOTERS FISHERS and FARMERS



123 Byng Street
ORANGE NSW 2800

1 December 2016

The Hon Troy Grant MP
PO Box 1327
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Mr Grant,

Funding Cuts for Lifeline Central West

I know that as Member for Dubbo you are concerned about rural crisis services in your community.

You would have seen reported recently in the Central Western Daily that Lifeline Central West is having \$800,000 in funding cut over four years - placing this vital service at risk. This comes after the Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo services being funded under a single banner, rather than individually - as they clearly operate.

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As Member for Dubbo, will you join me in calling funding to be restored to this service? As elected representatives of the Central West, we should work together to get the best for the people we represent.

I have also written to Paul Toole, the Member for Bathurst, with the same request.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philip Donato MP
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