

Select Committee on the Response to Major Flooding across New South Wales in 2022

Hearing – 15/06/2022

Question on Notice

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The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Just to follow up on the mental health, we visited Wardell CORE, who are doing an incredible job with people. They're very lucky to have a volunteer who's been working pro bono for the last three months doing door-to-door outreach in Wardell in relation to mental health. They're very concerned about the state of where people are at and the fact that they know it's going to be there for a long time. Are you able to provide to the Committee on notice the extra resources that have gone in? I know the Minister has made announcements that are there.

ANSWER

The Northern NSW Local Health District Disaster Recovery Team has been engaged with the Wardell community and Wardell Community Organised Resilience Effort (CORE) since the beginning of the response and the current recovery efforts, including working directly with CORE Lead and the group of volunteer health professionals.

The Disaster Recovery Team in consultation with Wardell CORE has offered community members training in key aspects of mental health support, with a plan to offer both short sessions in mental health awareness and the full 2-day Mental Health First Aid training so community members can feel more confident in supporting each other.

On 13 March 2022, the NSW Government announced it is investing \$25 million over 3 years for the Flood Recovery Mental Wellbeing Package. As part of this package, the NSW Government has provided funding to Healthy North Coast, the North Coast Primary Health Network, to deliver local trauma and recovery programs to ensure support is available long after the flood events.

The funding to Healthy North Coast includes:

- \$5 million for a wellbeing and resilience community grant program to fund specialist NGOs in trauma based therapeutic programs
- \$7 million for recruitment of clinical and non-clinical workforce support to people experiencing higher level trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder
- \$3.5 million for recruitment of up to 10 Local Recovery Coordinators
- \$1 million for four pop-up Safe Havens.

The Northern NSW Local Health District Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drugs Service will continue to work in partnership with the Wardell community, Healthy North Coast, government and non-government organisations to support community recovery.