

## Response to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on State Development on the last twelve months of the Rural Mental Health Support Line

CENTRE FOR RURAL &  
REMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

CRRMH has a lead role in the implementation of the Rural Mental Health Support Line. This 24 hour, 7 day a week service was put in place by NSW Health for farmers and other rural people in late 2004 and has become an integral part of the projects that involve mental health and wellbeing of people on NSW farms. The Line allows people in rural communities the opportunity to speak with a trained mental health professional about themselves or about a family member, friend or colleague they are worried about. It also provides mental health support and advice to rural service providers working with farmers.

C/o Bloomfield Hospital  
Forest Road  
ORANGE NSW 2800

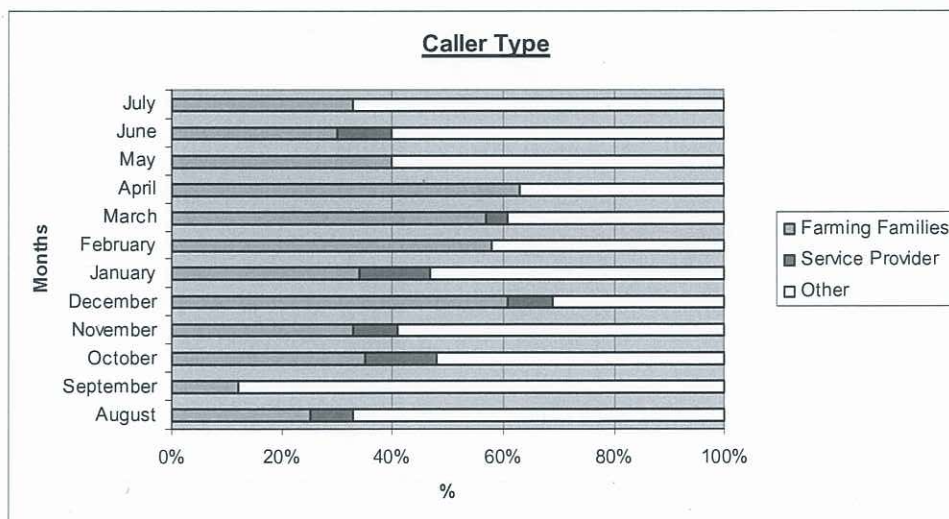
Phone: 02 6360 7828  
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Analysis of the data shows:

### Who uses the Line

The line is aimed at farming families and rural service providers who work with farming families.

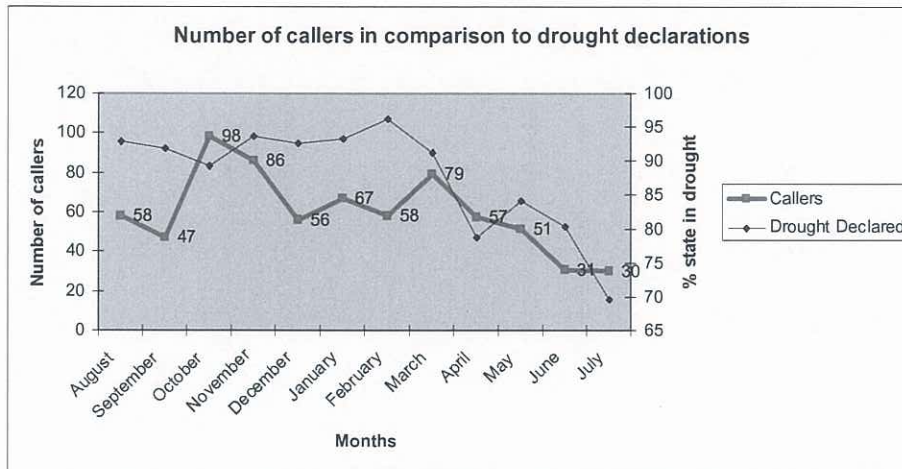
- Farming families using the line increased steadily until the numbers peaked in April 2007. Since then there has been a steady decline.
- The number of service providers using the line is quite small but the trend is that they are increasingly using the service
- The other group includes undefined callers not directly identifying themselves as farmers



## Number of Callers

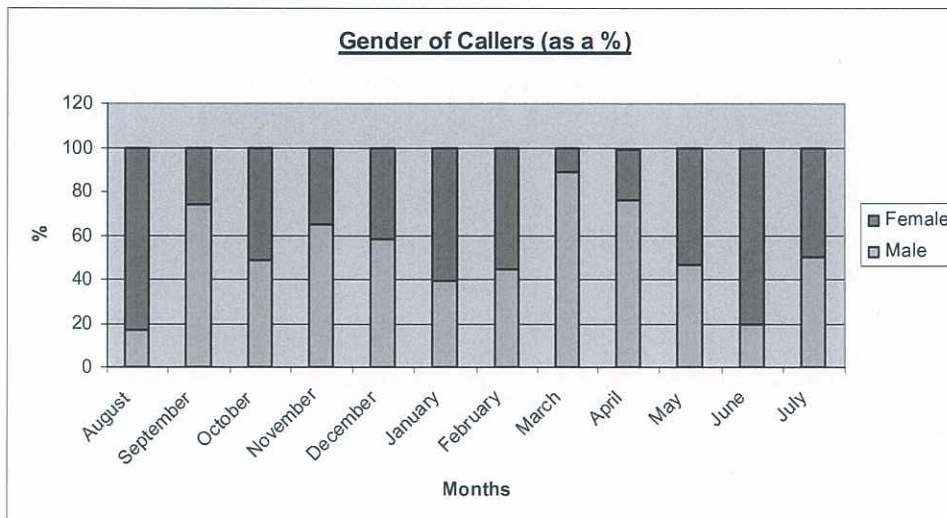
Numbers on the line vary from month to month. The graph below shows the number of callers in comparison with the percentage of the state in drought.

- There was an increase in callers from Aug 2006 to February 2007.
- Call numbers peaked in the period Oct 06 – March 07, matching the period of greatest extent of state-wide drought.



## Gender of callers

Over the last 12 months the line has reached slightly more males than females however the ratio fluctuates each month.



Brian Kelly  
Director