

# FRRR and CCI Giving make further five-year commitment to rural mental health

## \$1.25m in grants to be made available

**6 April 2022:** [The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#) and [CCI Giving](#) have agreed to a five-year extension to their partnership and national grants program, [In a Good Place \(IAGP\)](#). This means that the grant program will now run until at least 2027.

CCI Giving has also made a commitment to increase the funding available each year by \$50,000, meaning that there will be \$250,000 available to applicants annually, starting from next year.

The partnership between CCI Giving and FRRR began in May 2018 and, since then, \$800,000 in grants have been awarded to 53 projects across remote, rural and regional Australia through the IAGP program.

This program strengthens mental health in rural communities by supporting locally-led initiatives that reduce social isolation, increase social participation and connectedness and encourage people to seek help in tackling mental health challenges.

Jeremy Yipp, CCI General Manager, General Insurance Claims and Chair of CCI Giving, said that they are committed to providing rural Australians with greater access to mental health care.

“There are many stressors when it comes to mental health and, sadly, the pandemic has exacerbated these, particularly among young people living in rural areas who don’t have the same access to mental health services as those living in cities.

“There are key groups working on the ground, at the local level, who we want to ensure have the support to implement initiatives that they know will make a difference.

“We are always stronger when we work with others, and we are delighted to be extending our relationship with FRRR. I know that working closely with FRRR is vital to the impact and effort of the many organisations who are supporting communities and people who are at risk of mental ill health. Five years and additional funds is something to really celebrate,” said Mr Yipp.

Natalie Egleton, CEO of FRRR, said that this commitment from CCI Giving provides much-needed certainty to rural Australia.

“Historically, remote rural and regional communities across Australia haven’t had the equity of access to the mental health and wellbeing resources that they need. With the added pressure of the challenges that these communities have faced in recent years, access to these kinds of services is now more crucial than ever before.

“Our [Heartbeat of Rural Australia](#) survey showed that as a result of consecutive natural disasters and the pandemic, there has been lowered resilience, increased fatigue and stress, and high levels of mental health illnesses in rural communities. CCI Giving’s commitment of increased grant funds and the certainty of it being on offer for the next five years, provides these communities with security



and greater access to funding for community mental health projects that can have a profound impact for those involved.

“At FRRR, we have loved working alongside CCI Giving, providing support and tools to these vital, community-led initiatives. We couldn’t be more delighted to announce the five-year extension of our work together,” Ms Egleton said.

The next round of IAGP grant applications will open on 20 April 2022.

To find out more about this program go to <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place/>

## ENDS

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### About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal-FRRR- (phonetically: F-triple-R)- is the only national foundation specifically focused on ensuring the social and economic strength of remote, rural and regional communities. FRRR's unique model connects common purposes and investment with locally prioritised needs, to create communities that are vital and resilient. Since FRRR's start in 2000, it has delivered nearly \$135 million to more than 12,000 projects.

### About CCI Giving

CCI Giving is a foundation for the Australian Catholic community from Catholic Church Insurance Limited (CCI). Set up with a \$10 million contribution from CCI in 2017, CCI Giving is a perpetual charitable foundation that is not reliant on public funding. CCI Giving builds on a longstanding history of ‘giving back’ to the community, and is inspired by the centuries-old Catholic tradition of compassion in action to support the most marginalised and under-served in our community.