



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Two New Financial Counsellors Appointed to the Rural Financial Counselling Service - Gippsland

Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria - Gippsland (RFCSV-G) has recently appointed two new experienced Counsellors to the team, Christos Iliopoulos and Sarah Bardsley.

Commencing early April 2018, they will be based at RFCSV-G offices located in Maffra and Ellinbank, servicing the Gippsland region 2-3 days per week.



Christos will be located at Maffra 3 days per week. He brings extensive experience in commerce, local government, community health, and education. He was a local Councillor for Moreland City Council with a focus on economic development, education, and town planning.

Christos holds qualifications in Philosophy and Education with nearly 20 years as a senior teacher and lecturer. He has received a business award from the Australian Human Rights Commission for the development of high-care conventional housing for persons with a disability. Most recently he has been business consulting and providing Community Health disability support for families across Gippsland.

Sarah is a long time Gippsland resident and will be located in Ellinbank and Maffra 2 days per week. She brings extensive experience in the dairy industry. Sarah was instrumental in supporting local farmers by developing the Heyfield Financial Counselling Community Outreach Program, predominantly supporting the community impacted by closure of ASH Mill in Heyfield and the Murray Goulburn farm-gate pricing reduction. This initiative awarded her the Financial Counselling Australia - Jan Pentland Scholarship.

Sarah holds qualifications in Financial Counselling; Community Health and Business Marketing, alongside many years of business and financial management experience. With significant working knowledge of issues impacting our rural communities, she has direct experience working with farmers to access financial support services and diversifying revenue streams.

Sarah and Christos will be an asset and a welcomed additional support to Gippsland farmers and the community.

Farmers requiring financial assistance are encouraged to contact RFCSV-G for a confidential discussion on 5662 2566 or email [office@rfcsvg.com.au](mailto:office@rfcsvg.com.au)

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