

Farmers in the area previously known as the rural shire of Crows Nest, Queensland, will access live professional internet counselling services by social workers using a web cam, in the privacy of their own home.



Master of Health student Kayleen Bromley is currently conducting research on farmers and internet counselling.

“Most farmers live and work on their property. I am trying to find a way of supplying equitable professional social work services to the bush, equal to those in the cities, without disruption to farmer productivity or extensive travel.”

“I have been looking at the possibility of live internet counselling in rural communities using webcams. I conducted a self-funded pilot study ten years ago, that showed it could be done however, ethics and confidentiality are paramount to the practice of social work. Now with broadband and better programming, ethical considerations and client confidentiality may be able to be assured.”

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