



## Rural Financial Counselling Service Program in South Australia and the Northern Territory

This fact sheet provides background information on the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Program in South Australia (SA) and the Northern Territory (NT) for organisations interested in submitting an application for the 2021 to 2024 grant round on the Community Grants Hub.

### About the RFCS Program

The RFCS Program is an Australian Government initiative that provides free and independent financial counselling to eligible farmers, fishers, foresters and small related enterprises who are experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship.

The RFCS Program has been in operation since 1986. The vision for the 2021 to 2024 RFCS Program is to improve financial wellbeing and resilience at the farm level to build a more sustainable and profitable primary production sector.

### SA and the NT RFCS Program region

There are 12 predefined RFCS regions across Australia. SA and the NT form a single service region. A detailed map of the SA-NT RFCS region and associated Local Government Areas can be found [here](#).

### Farm businesses in SA and the NT

The number of farm businesses and land area for the SA-NT RFCS service region is listed in the table below.

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>Kilometres of land area</b>	<b>Number of farm businesses*</b>
SA	984,275 km <sup>2</sup>	12,635
NT	1,348,094 km <sup>2</sup>	641

\*Businesses with an annual turnover of more than \$50,000. Source: ABS 8165.0 (2019) and ABS.STAT (Dataset: Regional Statistics by LGA 2019, 2011-2019).

The main types of primary production businesses in SA are:

- grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming (2,862 businesses)
- other grain growing (1,762 businesses)
- grape growing (1,644 businesses)
- sheep-beef cattle farming (992 businesses)
- sheep farming (893 businesses)
- beef cattle farming (776 businesses)
- vegetable growing (494 businesses)
- fishing (448 businesses)
- dairy cattle farming (415 businesses)
- forestry (316 businesses).

The main types of primary production businesses in the NT are:

- beef cattle farming (193 businesses)
- fruit and tree nut growing (88 businesses)
- vegetable growing (66 businesses)
- fishing (51 businesses)
- grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming (32 businesses)
- forestry (29 businesses)
- sheep-beef cattle farming (12 businesses).