

WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 2021

RACV FUNDS LIFELINE'S NEW OVERNIGHT TEXT SERVICE

RACV is pleased to announce it has pledged \$420,000 for Lifeline to extend the operating hours of its *Lifeline text* service from midnight-to-dawn. This is the first time the service will run overnight, with this change only possible because of RACV's funding.

The funding from RACV will enable the service to run for a six-month period starting mid-October and will be open to all Australians who can text Lifeline to receive access to a qualified crisis supporter.

Funding the overnight service is a new partnership directly with RACV. This is in addition to the one established jointly with NRMA Insurance last year.

RACV Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Neil Taylor said since forming the partnership with Lifeline last year, demand for their services continues to increase, with up to 3500 calls per day.

"RACV has been working with Lifeline for some time now and this additional funding will allow them to provide another invaluable service to people in need," Mr Taylor said.

"These are challenging times for many across Australia and organisations such as Lifeline have never been more important – we wish that was not the case.

"The challenges of mental health and wellbeing are rightfully gaining more of a voice as we all navigate the challenges of COVID-19, and we hope that this funding and the associated new service helps some more people get the help they need."

Lifeline Australia Chief Executive Officer Colin Seery said the support will go a long way to supporting people in crisis and saving lives.

"We are incredibly grateful for this support from RACV which gives us the chance to support even more people in crisis reaching out for help," Mr Seery said.

"It's the support of the community and through partnerships like this one with RACV that we're able to ease the pressure on our volunteers and ensure that any Australian in crisis can reach out 24/7."

If you or someone you know feels overwhelmed or in need of support, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 at any time of the day or night.

To donate to Lifeline, please visit fundraise.lifeline.org.au

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For enquiries, please contact:

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