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THE PROBLEM

A mental health prevalence study undertaken by the Australian Government's Department of Veterans Affairs has indicated that just under half of transitioned Australian Defence Force Veterans experience a mental health disorder in the first 12 months after transitioning to civilian life.

Similarly, expert guidelines provided by the Black Dog Institute estimate around one in ten emergency service workers are currently suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), although rates are likely to be even higher if retired emergency workers are considered.

THE SOLUTION

Strathbogie Shire Council has partnered with Euroa Health and Euroa RSL to explore the prospect of establishing a Post-Traumatic Stress Wellness Centre at Euroa Health to provide specialised care to veterans and emergency services workers and volunteers suffering PTS.

Euroa Health currently has vacant Amaroo and Euroaville facilities, including a fully functioning commercial kitchen, which previously provided 58 beds.

THE ASK

Project	Description	Estimated cost
Veterans Integrated Support Service	A feasibility study into a Post-traumatic Stress Wellness Centre at Euroa Health by providing veterans and emergency service officers suffering from PTS with specialised care.	\$200,000

THE RESULT

- ✓ Informed **planning**, **decision-making** and **investment** into a Post-traumatic Stress Wellbeing Centre
- ✓ Potential for the development of a **Post-traumatic Stress Wellbeing Centre** which would assist in supporting retired veterans and emergency service workers to transition into retired life
- ✓ Potential to reduce the prevalence of mental illness in transitioned veterans and emergency service workers
- ✓ Substantial economic benefits for Euroa, Strathbogie Shire and the wider region
- √ Jobs associated with renovations to Euroa Health and delivery of wellbeing services



