

MEDIA RELEASE 23 March 2020

**The Buttery responds pro-actively to the Covid19 crisis**

**Clients with mental health and addiction issues need support at this time more than ever**

In response to the Coronavirus crisis, the mental health and substance use treatment organisation, The Buttery is continuing to deliver its programs with due regard to the care needs of clients, their safety and the safety of staff.

The Buttery conducts a range of residential and community-based treatment programs across the NSW Northern Rivers and Mid-North Coast, providing treatment for adults and young people with mental health, substance use and gambling issues.

Where possible, community-based clients will be able to access treatment and support via phone, Skype or video conferencing.

The health of clients currently in residential programs is being safeguarded by appropriate isolation measures. Details are available at:   [www.buttery.org.au](http://www.buttery.org.au/)

“We are mindful that many of our vulnerable clients who have substance use, gambling or mental health issues are dealing with increased anxiety due to the pandemic. We are fully committed to assisting them, while being aware of the need to safeguard their health and the health of staff. We are doing our utmost to prevent the spread of the virus and following all Government health recommendations,” said CEO, Leone Crayden.

“We trust that our many supporters in the community and our NSW Health and Commonwealth Government funding partners will continue supporting the work of The Buttery which is more vital for people at this time than ever,” she said.

The Buttery is funded by the North Coast Primary Health Network, NSW Health, The Responsible Gambling Fund, foundations and many generous individual donors.

In 2019, more than 2,400 clients took part in a Buttery program across a wide area from Tweed Heads to Port Macquarie and west to Kyogle and the Dorrigo Plateau.

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**Photo caption: The Buttery’s headquarters near Bangalow.**

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