

# Guy Barnett MP

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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
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## Helping Tasmania's wild fishing industry stay afloat

The Tasmanian Government is continuing to support our world class wild fishing industry and we remain committed to helping it through the challenging times caused by COVID-19 and other global market access restrictions.

Last week we announced a further \$663,000 in fee relief for rock lobster and other commercial wild fishers, with the new funding building on the comprehensive \$5.5 million support package provided to the fisheries sector in 2020.

However, we acknowledge more support is needed and that's why I am proud that our Government is providing \$360,000 over the next three years to fund for the Stay Afloat Mental Health Program.

Stay Afloat is a seafood industry / Rural Alive and Well partnership supporting the health and wellbeing of those operating in and connected to the Tasmanian seafood industry.

A key component of the Stay Afloat program is the Stay Afloat Reach Out – Response for Recovery Coordinator, an employee within Rural Alive and Well.

The Stay Afloat Reach Out Coordinator works with individuals, families and communities to build resilience and capacity to react to challenging life experiences.

The free and confidential service is a hands on role, which aims to connect with people and provide ongoing practical support and when required, referral to other services. The service is available when and where the help is needed – and can be on a fishing boat, the wharf or at a marine farm.

With the current COVID and international market distributions, the seafood industry continues to do it tough, especially the rock lobster fishery and Stay Afloat is there to help our fishers.

Our Government will continue to work with the industry to consider ways of supporting it through these challenging times.

Anyone in the fisheries industry who would like support through this service can call 1300HELPMATE or go to <https://www.ravtas.com.au/referral-form>