

## NESAY gets backing to help students having difficulties

By ANITA  
McPHERSON

AN initiative to provide support to secondary school students experiencing disconnection and relationship difficulties has received the financial backing of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Wangaratta-based North East Support and Action for Youth (NESAY) has received \$48,276 in funding from the FRRR, which has enabled them to engage a counsellor who will be available each

week to students at Marian College, Myrtleford P-12 and Bright P-12.

NESAY executive officer Leah Waring said a counsellor had already been in place and providing assistance last term to students at Bright P-12, where a need for the service had been identified.

She said the organisation was delighted its application for funding to the FRRR was successful which has allowed the program to be extended to neighbouring schools.

The funding was made available under the FRRR's

"School and Beyond Program" through the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, designed to help remove financial and psychological barriers to participation and completion of study for youth impacted by the 2009 bushfires.

The three participating schools will be coordinating the referral of students to the counsellor, who is there to assist those feeling disconnected, experiencing family conflict and school disengagement.

The program is now officially under way and has been funded until June 30 next year.