Counselling needed

RAVENSHOE: David Anthony

FOR many people the first anniversary of the Ravenshoe cafe gas explosion is just the beginning as the trauma associated with the tragedy really sets in.

This is one of the reasons, Ravenshoe Community Centre (RCC) is seeking funding to extend the tenure of its full-time counsellor Catie Teece another two years. Ms Teece’s counselling services are in huge demand.

Ms Teece is assisting 53 people affected by the freak accident that claimed two lives and injured 18 others on June 9 last year. Sadly, about 50 more people are anxious to seek Ms Teece’s counselling services as well.

So heavy is the workload, RCC staff and committee are considering asking for funding for a second counsellor. Ms Teece was appointed to the position in August last year, two months after the disaster.

RCC committee president Priscilla Clare said it was clear Ravenshoe needed a fulltime counsellor to continue after this August.

Ms Clare said those injured continued to cope with the physical trauma of the disaster, but the psychological trauma was coming to the fore.

RCC has found support from the Member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth, who is lobbying the Queensland Government to extend the counsellor position.

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