

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BHP BILLITON JOINS *BEYONDBLUE* FOR PILBARA MENTAL HEALTH ROADSHOW**

Thousands of Pilbara mining employees will be provided with direct access to *beyondblue*'s mental health resources and support when the not-for profit's roadshow visits Pilbara mine sites this week, thanks to support from BHP Billiton.

This will complement the support provided by BHP Billiton to its employees who may be suffering from mental health issues at work or home.

The *beyondblue* Pilbara roadshow is supported by BHP Billiton Iron Ore and is an extension of the National Roadshow, which has travelled more than 50,000 kilometres through every state and territory in Australia to encourage all Australians to 'take 1 step' for better mental health.

The Pilbara roadshow started at BHP Billiton Iron Ore's Port Hedland operations this week before travelling to all five of its mine sites, employee accommodation and townships of Port Hedland and Newman over 10 days.

The roadshow will raise awareness of mental health issues and provide support services to employees and community members.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore, Vice President of Health, Safety and Environment, Brett Swayn, said he was pleased to offer employees the opportunity to connect directly with *beyondblue* personnel and resources and the Company's support was fitting with its commitment to the health and safety of its workforce.

"The *beyondblue* Pilbara roadshow complements our Mental Wellness Standard, which is designed to help our employees understand mental wellness; further develop our leaders and enrich workplace culture by connecting our people to free mental health support and resources," Mr Swayn said.

"We are aware that the demographics of our workforce align with those within the broader community who are at risk of mental health issues which is why we are committed to implementing practical measures to assist employees who may be at risk of experiencing mental health problems."

*beyondblue* CEO, Georgie Harman, acknowledged BHP Billiton Iron Ore for its proactive approach to workplace mental wellbeing.

"Just like for all Australians, it is vital that people living and working in the Pilbara understand the risks associated with mental health problems and know that support is available," Ms Harman said.

“This trip means that thousands of miners in a male-dominated industry will learn more about depression and anxiety, how to prevent and recover from them and why seeking support is so important.

“Unfortunately, men seek help for mental health problems less than women because they don’t want to be seen as weak and they don’t want to be a burden on others. The truth however is that it takes guts to tackle a mental illness and men are often amazed at how much better they feel once they take the first steps on the road to recovery.

“Australians need to know this, which is why we appreciate BHP Billiton’s support in bringing the roadshow to its employees. Not only will this visit make BHP Billiton’s workplaces in the Pilbara more mentally healthy, it will help boost and protect the mental health of the broader communities.”

BHP Billiton General Manager Mt Whaleback, Pat Bourke, who operates the largest single pit iron ore mine in the world and resides in the town of Newman in the Pilbara, said he’s seen first-hand how mental health issues can impact people living in the bush.

“Working and living so close together means, even more so, that we need to look out for each other,” Mr Bourke said.

“When health issues are of concern to the broader community, they are inevitably a concern to our workers as well.

“Without a healthy, capable and highly-skilled workforce, we could not continue to achieve success and contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Western Australia.”

For more information on the beyondblue National roadshow visit

<http://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-involved/the-beyondblue-national-roadshow>

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: [www.bhpbilliton.com](http://www.bhpbilliton.com)

## **Media Relations**

### **Australia**

Emily Perry  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2800 Mobile: +61 477 325 803  
email: [Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com)

Paul Hitchins  
Tel: + 61 3 9609 2592 Mobile: + 61 419 315 001  
email: [Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com)

Eleanor Nichols  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2360 Mobile: +61 407 064 748  
email: [Eleanor.Nichols@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Eleanor.Nichols@bhpbilliton.com)

### **United Kingdom**

Ruban Yogarajah  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022  
email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

Jennifer White  
Tel: +44 20 7802 7462 Mobile: +44 7827 253 764  
email: [Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com)

### **Americas**

Ruban Yogarajah  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022  
email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 16, 171 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is headquartered in Australia

## **Investor Relations**

### **Australia**

Tara Dines  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005  
email: [Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com)

Andrew Gunn  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354  
email: [Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com)

### **United Kingdom and South Africa**

Jonathan Price  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7990 527 726  
email: [Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com)

Dean Simon  
Tel: +44 20 7802 7461 Mobile: +44 7717 511 193  
email: [Dean.Simon@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Dean.Simon@bhpbilliton.com)

### **Americas**

James Agar  
Tel: +1 212 310 1421 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011  
email: [James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com)

Joseph Suarez  
Tel: +1 212 310 1422 Mobile: +1 646 400 3803  
email: [Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209  
Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place  
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom  
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111