

Wednesday, 29th July 2009

RURAL WOMEN'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

A women's health day, exploring artistic expression and learning from the culture of the arid lands are among nine projects to attract State Government funding that will help build the resilience and wellbeing of women in drought affected areas of South Australia.

Minister for Status of Women Gail Gago say the innovative ideas have each attracted up to \$1,000 under the second round of funding for the SA Rural Women's Community Grants 2009.

"These valuable projects improve community connections and support structures in rural and regional areas at a time when the resilience and wellbeing of women is so vital in our drought affected areas," says Minister Gago.

"Women are often the backbone of these communities – a stronghold for families and compassionate network for each other. These grants provide the perfect opportunity to foster their efforts empowering communities amid difficult economic times.

"Mothers and wives are often contributing on the land while balancing family demands and easing the pressure on partners. This can be even more challenging amid overwhelming times of extreme financial pressure and isolation.

"The network of relationships that can be fostered with other women sharing similar challenges can be an invaluable outlet made possible through these grants.

"The Grants also go a small way to support the work and commitment of key organisations in regional South Australia," says Ms Gago.

The Rural Women's Community Grants are jointly provided through a partnership between government and non-government organisations. Women in Agriculture and Business, PIRSA's Rural Solutions and the Women's Information Service have come together to provide individual grants of up to \$1000 each.

"The innovation of Nelshaby Women in Agriculture and Business is to be commended for proposing an arid lands bus trip to the Wadlata Outback Centre during which women can identify changes that they can make to sustain their own farming businesses," says Minister Gago.

"Meanwhile, other initiatives will use funding to explore a range of shared benefits, including promoting better health, self esteem, artistic expression and social networking.

“These are all valuable opportunities to decrease isolation and share opportunity and strength among like minded people.”

The nine second round grant recipients include:

Mantung Institute Inc – Drought Relief for Women

Workshops educating women around depression/anxiety, providing skills to enhance work life balance, building healthy heart and breast cancer awareness.

Padthaway Women in Agriculture and Business – Seeing the Funny Side of Life

Afternoon luncheon featuring guest speakers from local health service providers and a lighthearted approach to life while also promoting support networks in the region.

Yurgo Women in Agriculture and Business – Relief from Drought, River Boat Cruise

Educational trip for women associated with the farming sector to increase knowledge around small business and agriculture through networking.

Penong Progress Association – Women’s Health Day

Guest speakers will discuss mental health matters at a lunch while providing an opportunity for women to establish supportive networks and gather health information from local service providers.

Nelshaby Women in Agriculture and Business – Educational Day Trip

A bus trip to the arid lands, Wadlata Outback Centre, while allow women to share experiences while also learning what changes they witness can be made to help sustain their own farming businesses.

Women in Agriculture and Business of SA Inc – State Conference 2009

Attracting guest speakers that will discuss experience Bio-dynamic farming at Narrung, SA Great’s ‘Buying SA’ Campaign, PhD studies on Mental health and Regional Areas and women in business overcoming challenges.

Mallee Health Service – East Murray Self Esteem Program

A 10-week program, building resilient young women in rural communities will focus on health and wellbeing, mental health, body image and self esteem.

Minnipa Progress Association – Taking Care of Yourself and Your Family

An evening event focussed on maintaining a positive outlook during drought times by building relationships and community support structures, taking time out for yourself and sharing the challenges maintaining the family unit.

Mid Murray Community Support Services – Well-being For Women Through Art

A four-week creative workshop with clay, sculpture, card-making and needle felting to address isolation by helping build relationships, resilience, self esteem and confidence while also sharing stories with women sharing similar circumstances.

Three funding rounds for the Rural Women’s Community Grants have been made available in 2009. Applications are now being accepted for this year’s final funding round, which closes on October 31