

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 20 January 2016

United Way Glenelg announces community grants for 2016

United Way Glenelg will award 10 health and human care organisations in the Glenelg Shire nearly \$40,000 in grants to help address priorities in health, education and employment initiatives.

Grants were awarded through a competitive request for funding, a process that takes over four months to complete. A total of 17 proposals requesting a total of \$99,000 in funding were received. Those proposals were vetted by volunteers from across the community.

“Grants this year are predominately being allocated to programs reflecting crucial support for vulnerable children and youth in local kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools, a worrying trend we don’t expect will subside soon” said United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Angelino,

Funding for the programs and projects is made possible through the Workplace Giving Program (Payroll) with individuals pledging to make a regular donation from their wage.

“The value of our community donating to United Way Glenelg is our history of investing in programs and services that are proven to make a difference in high-priority areas,” Ms Angelino said

“Our strong networks give us grass-roots access and knowledge of the needs and challenges across the Glenelg Shire.

“We track and report regularly on the outcomes communities achieve as a result of our funding, further entrusting donors with their donation” Ms Angelino concluded.

Portland District Health will provide vital early autism screening for families in the Glenelg Shire thanks to funds received from United Way Glenelg.

The closest Autism Assessment service available to families is Warrnambool, then Geelong with an expected wait time of over seven weeks for reports to be sent to a family’s pediatrician.

Portland District Health Director Primary & Community Health Fiona Heenan said it was vital staff are trained to reduce the need for children and their families to travel to Warrnambool or possibly Geelong.

“Placing children who are may have Autism in an unfamiliar environment, in addition to travel and accommodation can place a heavy burden on families” Ms Heenan said.

Funding from United Way Glenelg will see two allied health staff who specialise in paediatrics to undertake post graduate training at Monash University in the assessment of children who are displaying signs of autism.

“Once the two staff members have returned from training they will undertake oversee implementation of this specialist program including the roll out of training to other members of the multidisciplinary team.

“This will lead to a decrease waiting time and alleviating anxiety and stress to families, leading to early intervention locally.”

The full list of funding recipients for 2016 is;

HEALTH

Portland District Health - Early Years Screening for Autism

As above

Portland Primary School - Fitness Track upgrade

To improve the schools fitness track and basketball courts for students to maintain and increase their levels of activities. This will complement their Kidz in the Kitchen program funding by United Way Glenelg in 2015 an active lifestyle

Portland Secondary College - Paying attention to self

A peer support program for young people who has a parent or family member affected by mental illness

Portland South Primary School - Safe ways to South

Provide and encourage all students attending the PSPS a safe, easy and healthy option to get to school everyday

INCOME (EMPLOYMENT)

Portland Secondary College - Portland Re-engagement Program

Ongoing support of students who have been at risk or dis-engaged from school with an alternative and supportive setting,

South West Alternative Medium Project (SWAMP) – Still sewing, still growing

A dual layered engagement project providing participants, predominately from vulnerable backgrounds to learn to SEW and deliver a range of social opportunities for the participants to GROW within themselves

EDUCATION

Glenelg Shire Council - Engaging Gen Z

To increase participation of young people and improve the skills and knowledge of service providers, volunteer organisation, clubs and the education sector.

Kalbarri Kindergarten - Children's Sensory garden restoration and cultural inclusion development

To enhance the overall health and wellbeing of young children and their families, incorporate an opportunity for children to embrace and express their cultural identity, particularly with the significant number of Koori children enrolled at the Kindergarten

More information on how you can support vital programs for the community please contact Nicole Angelino at United Way Glenelg on 0410 51 3305 or go to their website www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au

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