

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Tuesday 18 May 2020

### **Messaging to support residents through COVID-19 restrictions**

Positive messaging will be printed on footpath decals to support the Glenelg Shire community during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

The key messages to be displayed on the decals have been developed around six 'content pillars'; self-care (mental health), physical activity, community care, domestic violence, and inclusion.

The footpath decals will be installed in 'high traffic' areas in the Glenelg Shire towns of Portland, Heywood, Dartmoor, Nelson and Casterton. These 'high traffic' areas include chemists, supermarkets, bottle shops and post offices.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer, Nicole Carr said the decal messaging project was a great way to bring the community together during the COVID-19 restrictions.

'We have been looking for a way to bring the community together through this tough period of time. The decals offer messages of community support and a reminder of the support systems put in place within the Glenelg Shire,' Ms. Carr said.

'We are really excited to have local Gunditjmara artwork by Jenna Bamblett featured on the decals, as well as the LGBTQIA+ rainbow to support young members of this community who may feel vulnerable and marginalized during social distancing restrictions' said Ms. Carr.

The stakeholders involved in developing the messages of this project include; Glenelg Shire Council, Portland District Health, Sea Change, YMCA, YACVic, Emma House, Skittles, Future Leaders of Industry and Live4Life.

The Project was initiated by the Glenelg collaborative COVID-19 consortium and coordinated by United Way Glenelg. The project has been funded by Glenelg Shire Council and Safe in the Southwest through a grant.

Glenelg Shire Mayor Cr Anita Rank said Council was proud to support the project, the first of its kind for the region.

"It is fantastic to see key agencies and community groups, particularly our youth groups such as Skittles and Live4Life, come together to collaborate on this innovative and worthwhile project," she said.

"It is more important than ever that we find ways to retain our community connections and support each other. We hope that these footpath decals will 'brighten' the spirits of residents across the Shire and reinforce messages of positivity, respect and inclusion during these difficult times."

Emma House will be providing support under the domestic violence pillar with the community able to call the hotline when feeling unsafe at home. Emma House's contact number is 1800 366 238.

Along with Emma House, the Glenelg Together hotline is also offering their services through COVID-19. Glenelg Together contact number is 1800 512 461.

Decal artwork designed by Portland Signworks.

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