

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Tuesday 19 January 2021

### **Lewis Court Fund set to re-open in February**

Older people have a wealth of skills and experiences and can continue to be active participants in the community when provided with support and encouragement.

Each year, through the Lewis Court Fund, United Way Glenelg makes funds available for projects to support older people in the Glenelg Shire community. Last year, the fund was undersubscribed with funds still available for disbursement and, as such, United Way Glenelg will re-open the Lewis Court Fund in February 2021.

Executive Officer Nicole Carr said this would allow the community to look for projects of the greatest need.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to impact on our ability to connect with our friends and community and highlights just how much we all need social connections.

“Older people have been and continue to be the most isolated, particularly in a rural community due to distance.”

“If we can remove this isolation through technology and a commitment to being more age-friendly, it will make it easier for older people to remain socially connected.”

According to the DRAFT *Glenelg Shire 2040 Our Future Together* plan, between 2016 and 2026, the forecast for Glenelg Shire indicates a 28.1% increase in the population of retirement age and a 6.7% decrease in population of working age. This change means more lone person households are expected as populations continue to age, causing greater health concerns and a higher rate of mental health issues .

Projects up to \$5000 can be accessed with a total fund pool of \$20,000 available.

Grants will open Monday 1 February 2021 and close Saturday 28 February 2021. Applications can be made through [www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au](http://www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au)

For further information please call Nicole Carr, Executive Officer on 0410 513 305.

*Photo: Heywood Men's shed has been successful recipients of the Lewis Court Fund in the past, allowing their members to connect socially regularly.*

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