

# FYI - Grants

October 2011

A key priority for Regional Development Australia Murray is to inform communities, businesses & industries within the Murray region of the latest Government, Business and Philanthropic programs available.

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## 1. Special Conservation Scheme (NSW only)

The NSW Government's Rural Assistance Authority's Special Conservation Scheme is an incentive-based initiative to assist farmers within New South Wales to protect the state's biological and physical resource base by completing certain conservation works on their property which they may not have otherwise undertaken. Funding by way of a loan is available to carry out those works that will have a significant beneficial impact on the land, the local community and the environment *and* are not purely productivity based.

Examples of acceptable works:

- Soil Conservation
- Woody Weed Control
- Control of noxious weeds (as defined in Schedule 3 of the Noxious Weed Act)
- Serrated Tussock
- Stock and domestic water supply
- Cap and piping of Artesian bores
- Upgrading/improving existing irrigation systems
- Exclusion netting to prevent flying fox damage to existing orchards with a demonstrated flying fox problem
- Hail Netting
- Livestock effluent control
- Refurbishment and de-silting of ground tanks
- Planting of perennial species such as lucerne and oldman saltbush
- Hay, grain and silage storage facilities that are permanent fixtures.

To be eligible you must:

- be the registered proprietor of the property where the work is to be carried out **and** be in working occupation of the farm.
- Show the farm enterprise under normal seasonal conditions provides the **majority** of your total **gross** income.
- Not have net assets exceeding \$5 million.
- Demonstrate that the works have a significant beneficial impact on the land, the community and the environment **and** are not purely productivity based.
- Show that the works will complement or improve the natural resource base of the farming enterprise.
- Demonstrate that the farm enterprise has long term viability and has the capacity to repay the loan sought.
- Provide satisfactory security to support the loan.
- Demonstrate, for hay, grain and silage storage facilities only, that under normal circumstances the majority of **gross** income is derived from livestock production and not from cropping.
- For both noxious weed control and Serrated Tussock, provide a copy of the Local Control Authorities Management Plan for plants to be controlled and eradicated.

Application forms are available from the NSW Rural Assistance Authority by telephoning 02 9391 3000 or visit their website <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/scs>.

## 2. Regional Industries Investment Fund (NSW only)

NSW Trade & Investment's Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) has been established to drive economic growth in regional NSW as well as enhancing the attractiveness of regional areas. Financial assistance is available under this Fund for projects across regional NSW, (excluding the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area) that result in or promote economic outcomes for the State.

### Business investment projects

Support is available for investment projects that contribute to regional population growth through the creation of new jobs, or in special circumstances the retention of existing jobs in a regional location. The RIIF aims to encourage business growth by helping businesses overcome impediments to investment projects that will lead to the creation of new jobs in regional NSW.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- the long term viability of the project
- cost impediments delaying or preventing the project from proceeding
- a significant new investment in operations
- a planned substantial increase in new jobs as a result of the project

Firms creating new jobs in NSW may also be eligible for payroll tax rebates under the NSW Government's [Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme - Jobs Action Plan](#) administered by the Office of State Revenue.

Eligible applicants:

- metropolitan, interstate and overseas firms establishing in or relocating to regional NSW; and
- firms in regional NSW expanding existing operations or establishing new operations.

### Local infrastructure projects

Support is available for local infrastructure projects that are linked with employment generation investments and deliver industrial projects that have the potential to benefit more than one firm. The RIIF aims to address infrastructure barriers impeding business investment and job creation for specific projects in regional locations. Assistance is directed toward offsetting the costs of specific critical infrastructure required for business establishment, expansion or relocation in regional NSW.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- that the business infrastructure is directly linked to development of actual business investment and employment creation opportunities at the location
- to what extent the business infrastructure will be "common" ie has the potential to benefit other business users (current or future)
- an estimated timetable for the infrastructure being required/connected.
- how funding will be a catalyst for infrastructure outcomes which would not otherwise be achieved
- Substantial commitment of contributions from other sources (eg local government, private sector, Commonwealth and NSW government agencies).

Eligible applicants include:

- Local Councils
- infrastructure providers
- the private sector.

### **Business growth projects**

Funding is available to assist established small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in New South Wales, to grow and improve their competitiveness. SMEs demonstrating strong growth potential can apply for assistance across a range of activities to assist the development of the business.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- commercial viability and at least two years trading experience
- significant actual or potential sales growth and/or a planned expansion into new markets
- how the activity will achieve projected outcomes
- how the activity will help build local business capacity or create local industry opportunities.

### **Economic development projects**

Funding is available for projects that build capacity in local regional industries and/or have the potential to generate economic benefits such as employment, business or industry development/growth. This program does not provide assistance for community events or tourism initiatives. For applicants seeking funding for tourism projects, please visit: [http://corporate.tourism.nsw.gov.au/Funding\\_and\\_Grants\\_p586.aspx](http://corporate.tourism.nsw.gov.au/Funding_and_Grants_p586.aspx) for details.

Applicants must demonstrate that the project:

- has broad support from stakeholders or that the project is aligned with a local, regional or industry plan
- has the potential to create economic benefits for the broader area/region rather than being of specific benefit to a single enterprise.

Eligible applicants include:

- local councils
- incorporated associations including business, industry and community organisations
- regional development organisations including Regional Development Australia committees.

For further information on the Regional Industries Investment Fund, please contact your local NSW Trade & Investment office ([http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/general-contact/#Regional\\_NSW](http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/general-contact/#Regional_NSW)).

## **3. NSW Artist's Grants**

The NSW Artists' Grant has been initiated by the National Association of Visual Artists (NAVA) to assist professional visual arts, craft and design practitioners in NSW to effectively produce, present and promote their work throughout NSW, interstate and overseas. Funds for the scheme have been made available specifically to encourage visual arts, craft and design practitioners residing in NSW to undertake creative and cost-effective initiatives.

These funds are to assist directly with the costs associated with the development and implementation of a project plan and strategies, for example, the production of new creative work, the presentation costs in a venue, travel and freight, technical assistance costs, preparation and distribution of a portfolio, market research, building contacts, creating and maintaining a database, setting up a website, or a publicity campaign.

To apply for a grant, you must be a professional artist. NAVA resources that complement this grant are the publications, '[Getting Art There: An Artist's Marketing Manual](#)' and the '[Theory in Practice Series](#)'. Indigenous artists and artists from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

The NSW Artists' Grant is offered in four quick response rounds with grants available to individuals for up to \$1,250 (\$1,375 inc GST) and to groups for up to \$2,500 (\$2,750 inc GST). Individuals and groups are eligible for one grant only from this scheme in any 12-month period. The next round closes on **15 November 2011**.

For more information about this grant, please go to [www.visualarts.net.au](http://www.visualarts.net.au) or email [nava@visualarts.net.au](mailto:nava@visualarts.net.au).

## 4. Employment Assistance Fund

The Australian Government's Employment Assistance Fund helps people with disability and mental health condition by providing financial assistance to purchase a range of work related modifications and services for people who are about to start a job or who are currently working, as well as those who require assistance to find and prepare for work.

The Fund may reimburse the cost of work related modifications and services including, but not limited to:

- the cost of modifications to the physical work environment
- modifications to work vehicles
- adaptive equipment for the workplace
- information and communication devices
- Auslan interpreting
- specialist services for employees with specific learning disorders and mental health conditions
- disability awareness training
- Deafness awareness training
- mental health first aid training

Recruitment agencies may also apply for reimbursement of Auslan interpreting that they provide for a job interview.

### ***How to apply for assistance***

Employers, people with disability and employment service providers may apply for assistance by completing an on-line Employment Assistance Fund application form. A JobAccess Adviser can provide information about possible equipment, services and modifications and guide you through the application process. You can contact a JobAccess Adviser on **1800 464 800** or submit an online enquiry form.

**Who can apply:** To be eligible for assistance, a Participant, Worker or Individual must meet all of the following criteria:

- have an ongoing disability that:
  - has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least two years; and
  - results in a limitation, restriction or impairment that affects the Participant, Worker or Individual's everyday activities; and
- requires a Modification; and
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident

For more information and to access the online enquiry form and/or application form, please go to [http://jobaccess.gov.au/Services/A-Z\\_list/Pages/EmploymentAssistanceFund.aspx](http://jobaccess.gov.au/Services/A-Z_list/Pages/EmploymentAssistanceFund.aspx).

## 5. Anna Wearne Trust

Anna Wearne died in 1997 when she was 23. She was a young woman filled with potential, but even more importantly, she was a young woman who saw and believed in the potential of everyone she met, and encouraged and supported them to fulfill that potential. Whether you were down and out, or up and rising, Anna always saw the good in you and inspired you to see it and believe in it too. She made you feel good and helped you achieve good things.

So, while her life was tragically cut too short, her spirit lives on, in the Anna Wearne Trust. Established and run by Anna's friends and family, the trust aims to help young people fulfill their potential. And because Anna fought passionately against social injustice and dreamt of building a community where equality, fun, love and compassion overcame disadvantage, difficulties and discrimination, the trust aims to help people who face barriers to fulfilling their potential.

So if you are one of those people, if you have a little dream, a little seed of an idea, something you know you could do if only someone believed in you and gave you a little bit of help, talk to the Anna Wearne Trust. If your goals meet the criteria, we will support you the way we know Anna would have if she were still here. The Anna Wearne Trust aims to create opportunities for young people to reach their potential, where such potential is hampered due to disadvantage or inequality.

### **The Trust's Objectives:**

- assist young people to enable the pursuit of educational goals;
- seek ways to advance the reconciliation of indigenous people through specific projects or individual assistance;
- support young people to take on leadership roles that are of benefit to a community;
- facilitate and uphold the rights of women and support the advancement of and respect for women in all fields;
- create a network of non-financial support and encouragement whereby the trust acts as a bridge between young people and opportunities.

### **The Trust's Structure**

The Anna Wearne Trust operates in two different ways:

- It directly makes grants of up to \$500 directly to recipients
- It makes recommendations to the [Melbourne Community Foundation \(MCF\)](#) about the making of grants from the Anna Wearne Fund, a sub-fund of the MCF. These grants are generally up to \$1000 and are made to recipients via charitable entities endorsed as deductible gif recipients (DGRs). All grants made from the Anna Wearne Fund are subject to review and approval by the trustees of the MCF.

For more information about the Trust, please go to <http://www.annawearnetrust.org.au/group/noticeboard/>

## **From SCAMwatch**

SCAMwatch is warning Australians to continue to be wary of scammers who offer bogus government rebates for the installation of solar panels.

### ***How the scam works:***

- You receive an unexpected call, email or house visit from someone offering either free solar panels or a government rebate/grant on solar panels following an upfront payment.
- Scammers may pose as government representatives or mention government affiliation or programs.
- The scammer may ask for bank account details or for a fee to be paid before the rebate/grant can be processed. In some instances, these promised rebates have not been paid.
- The scammer may pressure you into making a hurried decision claiming that the false grants or rebate schemes are due to close soon.
- In some instances the scammer may offer free solar panels in exchange for placing advertising signs on your property for a number of months. They will request an upfront fee and claim to repay it over the duration of the advertising.
- The scammer may claim to be from a legitimate company which sells solar panels and may even organise to visit your home but will not show up.

For more information about this scam and others, please go to [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au).

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