

FYI - Grants

June 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. 2011 Aged Care Approvals Round

The Department of Health and Ageing is inviting applications for:

- 10,493 residential aged care places
- Capital grants of up to \$58.5m to construct or upgrade residential aged care services.
- More than \$150m in zero real interest loans (that is, loans for which the interest rate is set at the level of CPI).
- A combination of zero real interest loans and capital grants.
- 1,419 Community Aged Care Packages*
- 188 Extended Aged Care at Home Packages*
- 91 Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia Packages*
- Extra Service Status.

* **Important Note:** Potential applicants should note that Community Aged Care Packages are only available in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Extended Aged Care at Home and Extended Aged at Home Dementia Packages are only available in Western Australia.

The 2011 Application Kit comprises the 2011 Essential Guide which includes an overview of the assessment framework and assessment process; and detailed instructions on how to complete your applications and a disk containing all the approved 2011 application forms. The Essential Guide incorporates the 2011 Regional Distribution of Aged Care Places which provides details of the distribution of places across the state and territory aged care planning regions.

To obtain an application kit, prospective applicants should call the Aged Care Information Line on 1800 500 853. The information line is open from 8:30am to 5:00pm (AEST), Monday to Friday. Application kits can be downloaded from the Department's website at www.health.gov.au/acar2011.

All applications must be received within the Department of Health and Ageing by: **5:00pm Tuesday 2 August 2011.**

2. Financial support for flood affected Victorian businesses

Flood stricken Victorian businesses are now eligible for low cost loans to help rebuild after the devastating natural disaster that hit the state between January and March this year.

Businesses battered by the floods will have access to low interest loans of up to \$650,000 over ten years to ensure they can keep serving the community. The loans are targeted at businesses that provide a significant economic boost to the community.

A concessional interest rate of four per cent will be locked in for the first five years, with the first two years interest and repayment free, and up to \$50,000 will be provided as a grant. The low cost loans will remove the burden of interest costs and regular repayments, and by providing a large grant component, the loans will help businesses focus on rebuilding while maintaining their economic contribution to their community. The concessional loans will be available to businesses, primary producers and not for profit organizations under Category D of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) who meet the following criteria:

- Their principal place of operation is in an area of Victoria eligible for assistance under the NDRRA;
- They are significant to the local community or industry;
- They demonstrate they are viable and have a reasonable prospect of returning to profitability; and
- They have been assessed by the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria against other available assistance measures.

Businesses should contact their local Rural Finance office at www.ruralfinance.com.au to discuss their eligibility. The closing date for concessional loan applications is 31 December 2011.

3. Kookaburra Awards

The Kookaburra Awards offer prizes to individuals and organisations and projects that really make a difference – that stretch people’s vision of what’s possible in Australian society today.

Overview – Somebody has to bring change. Someone, or some thing, has to make us change. At times, we might think of people as ratbags, stirrers, or worse. We call them or their organisations radical, or subversive, or infuriatingly single-minded. We look at what they’re doing and dismiss it as pointless, or an unnecessary distraction from the real issues, or just a stunt. But they made a difference in the world. There are no strict rules around the scale of their endeavours, or the geography, or even whether they won the battle this time round. *Our Community* want to know that they fought the good fight, that they told truth to power, and that what they have done will carry on.

In 2011, there are three prizes:

1. The Individual Category – is for a person working for or through or in collaboration with an Australian community organisation (not looking for an isolated thinker, but a guide and a leader) to change the community for the better. It’s not about being a saint, a guru; it’s about being someone who can bring ordinary people along with a movement to change their lives, and ours).
2. The Community Grant Category – is for an Australian community organisation – that is, a not for profit organisation (incorporated or unincorporated), society, club or group. It’s not about being the biggest, or the best resourced, or the highest-profile group, it’s about being a group that does what it does brilliantly – and the one that stands out as a beacon of innovative community leadership and works to change things for the better.
3. The Project Category – for a project done by a community group, a business, a school, a local government authority – anyone or any body – that has changed the community for the better. It’s about projects that have changed people’s lives.

Further information can be accessed at http://www.our.community.com.au/control/control_article.js?articleID=4438. Applications close **26 August 2011**.

4. Intervention Support Program (NSW only)

The aim of the program is to provide support that is supplementary to improve the educational opportunities, learning outcomes and personal development of children with disabilities.

1. **Capital Grants for Projects at Non-Government Centres.** This program provides capital grants for projects that are integral to programs designed to improve educational outcomes for children (birth to 18 years) with disabilities by improving their participation and achievement. **Closing date is 26 August 2011.**
2. **Young Children with Disabilities – Main Funding Round.** This program supports learning and educational development opportunities for children with disabilities who are below school age (birth to 6 years), who are attending non profit early childhood settings which prepares them or supports their integration into regular preschools and schools. Funding is distributed on a calendar year basis and applications open in August for return on the last Friday of September to apply for support for children for the following year. **Closing date is 30 September 2011.**
3. **Young Children with Disabilities – Late Funding Round.** A limited amount of funding is set aside for funding for

children with disabilities who enrol in mainstream early childhood settings after the September closing date. As a limited amount of funding is available, mainstream settings are strongly encouraged to apply for all known enrolments by the September closing date. There are no guarantees that all late enrolment applications can be funded. Mainstream settings refer to the placement of children with disabilities into educational programs for and with children without disabilities. Funding is distributed on a calendar year basis. It is anticipated that the ISP Online Service will be available in early February 2011 for organisations to submit applications. **Closing date is 2 March 2012.**

4. **Children in Residential Care.** This program supports out of school hours educational programs for children (birth to 18 years) with disabilities in residential care. Funding is distributed on a calendar year basis and applications open in August for return on the last Friday of September to apply for support for children for the following year. **Closing date is 30 September 2011.**
5. **Non School Organisations.** This funding is only available for those organisations currently funded under the NSO component. This program assists in the provision of services which supports children (4 to 18 years) with severe disabilities to access appropriate educational programs in government and Catholic schools, e.g. itinerant programs, specialist support staff. Funding is distributed on a calendar year basis and applications open in August for return on the last Friday of September to apply for support for children for the following year. **Closing date is 30 September 2011.**

For further information, please access <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eas/isp/#NonSchoolOrganisations>.

5. Water Adjustment Innovation Fund (NSW Only)

The fund's purpose is to broaden the range of industries and economic diversity in country towns that have been impacted as a result of water reform, by encouraging viable businesses (that meet eligibility criteria) to establish, expand or relocate to these towns.

Assistance would be direct to costs including (but not limited to) the following:

- Product research and development
- Investment in manufacturing equipment
- Commercialisation of products and/or technologies
- Plant and equipment installation costs (including transportation)
- Skills training for employees
- Technical consultancies

Preference will be given to projects in communities adversely impacted by prolonged drought or the impact of climate change reforms. Applications can be accepted from businesses, business clusters and industry groups located in the Murray Darling Basin which includes the catchment management areas of the Border Rivers/Gwydir, Namoi, Central West, Western, Lachlan, Lower Murray Darling, Murrumbidgee and Murray.

Further information can be access at <http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/assistance-and-support/grants/regional-communities/building-the-country#WaterAdjustmentInnovationFund>

This is an ongoing funding program.

Grant Scammer is at it again!

The Australian Taxation Office is again warning of a telephone scam offering a \$7,000 grant for payment of \$200. The caller claims to be from the tax office and provides a case number and telephone number for you to call back on. If you receive this type of call, please do not provide any personal details or money. As the old adage says "If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is". Don't get caught handing over your hard earned money.

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