



# eNewsletter

## Edition 8 – March 2011

Welcome to another edition of Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Murray’s eNewsletter. In this edition, we feature:

- Boosting regional development
- NRMA Community Grants
- Harmony Day
- Riverina Murray Homelessness Action Plan Program
- RDA Murray is on Facebook!

### Boosting regional development

The Minister for Regional Australia, Simon Crean, announced details of a \$1.4 billion Regional Development Australia Fund that will boost economic development in the regions. The Federal Government created the fund as a new way of investing in regional Australia with a focus on local solutions, complete transparency and maximizing long-term economic benefit and potential.



The government is looking at infrastructure projects that will boost economic development, create local jobs and lift the quality of life in local communities and regions. The allocation of funding will be competitive, merit-based and only applications that have the backing of local Regional Development Australia committees will be considered.

Resources from the fund will be allocated over five years and the key criteria for application funding include:

- Delivery of concrete economic and social benefits.
- Commitment to innovation and building capacity in local communities.



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

- Linking regional communities across traditional boundaries.
- Ability to leverage additional funding across government and the private sector.

### NRMA Community Grants

Since 2003, the NRMA has invested more than \$4 million into over 1,000 projects nationally. NRMA is working with local communities to help make them safer. If you work with, or know of, a community group that’s proactively working in one of the four funding areas – crime prevention; road safety; emergency readiness and response; and environment – they could be eligible to receive funding of up to \$5,000 (including GST).

**Crime Prevention** – initiatives suitable for this category include programs that increase safety and security in local communities by reducing the opportunity for crime, or by targeting persons at risk of become criminal offenders by empowering them to participate in programs.



**Road Safety** – Initiatives considered are programs that seek to change behaviours on the road and reduce the likelihood and severity of road incidents. Preferred initiatives should aim to crease a positive safety impact, be based on evidence and lead to behavioral change.



**Emergency Readiness & Response** – Initiatives that focus on creating awareness about the importance of preparation and response to minimize the likelihood or severity of incidents in and around the home or local community during major natural perils or hazardous incidents.



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**Environment** – Initiatives to raise awareness and/or promote community engagement with environmental sustainability activities. Preference will be given to projects which demonstrate strong environmental education, decrease carbon emissions and directly engage communities.



Applications close 31 March 2011. Please read the 2011 Community Grants Information Booklet for further information including eligibility selection criteria for the program in your state. Information can be found at <http://www.communitygrantsprogram.com.au/>

## Harmony Day

### DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL COHESION PROGRAM **EVERYONE BELONGS**

Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on 21 March each year. It's a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The message for Harmony Day in 2011 is that **Everyone Belongs**, which means all Australians are a welcome part of our country, regardless of their background. It's a time to reflect on where Australia has come from, recognizing the traditional owners of this land. It's also about community participation, inclusiveness and respect – celebrating the different cultures that make Australia a great place to live.

Harmony Day began in 1999 and since then, a wide variety of groups including sporting organizations, community groups, local government, schools and businesses have staged Harmony Day events. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) supports a range of community events and activities held to celebrate Harmony Day by providing free promotional products. Log onto to the DIAC Harmony Day website to access further information about these products

[www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/](http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/)

Check out your local government's website to see whether they are conducting a Harmony Day event or if not, why not organize an event yourself!

DIAC has also established the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (DSCP) that has evolved from the 'Living in Harmony' program. The primary objective of the program is to help not for profit community organizations turn plans into reality. The key objectives of the program are



- The importance of **all Australians respecting one another** regardless of cultural, racial or religious differences.
- The **fair treatment of all Australians**, encouraging people to recognize that our interactions should be accepting of, and responsive to, each other's backgrounds, circumstances, needs and preferences.
- **Opportunities for people to participate** equitably in Australian society and to understand the rights and responsibilities that we share as part of that society.
- **A sense of belonging for everyone** by helping communities work towards a spirit of inclusiveness and a shared identity as Australians.
- The **benefits** of living in a culturally diverse society.
- To build the **capacity of specific communities** who are under significant pressure because of their





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culture or religion.

For further information about this program, please go to [www.harmony.gov.au/dscp/dscp-grants](http://www.harmony.gov.au/dscp/dscp-grants), but be quick as second round for applications closes 31 March.

## Homelessness Action Plan Program



The first year of the Riverina Murray Homelessness Action Plan Program is now complete with targets being reached. There were 70 assistance packages approved across the Riverina and Murray in 2010 assisting clients who were

either homeless or at risk of homelessness. The project has seen a collaboration of service providers formulating plans for clients to ensure all issues leading to their situation are addressed. This ensures clients are supported in a holistic effort to assist with long term sustainability of tenancies.

Systemic issues within policies and procedures of agencies, and service provisions gaps have been identified and addressed through the program to provide clients with ease of access to assistance.

In 2011, the program is looking to forward to continuing with consistent achievements and client outcomes for the benefit of Riverina Murray communities.

## RDA Murray is on Facebook™

The team at RDA Murray thought it would be a great idea to get with the times and get on Facebook! So RDA Murray's page is up and running. The page will allow the team to upload items of interest, funding opportunities and events, and allow friends to give us their thoughts, views and ideas.

## facebook

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



As most people know, Facebook is a growing phenomenon with over 600 million active users worldwide<sup>1</sup>, and RDA Murray believes that the social networking site is an invaluable tool to get RDA Murray's message out to all demographics far and wide.

[www.facebook.com/rdamurray](http://www.facebook.com/rdamurray)

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For further information about RDA Murray and how RDA Murray assists communities, businesses and industries within the Murray region, please access our website. Information on the site has the most up-to-date information about programs and other items of interest.

[www.rdamurray.org.au](http://www.rdamurray.org.au)

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook>)

