



eNewsletter

Edition 9 – May 2011

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

- Round 1 - Regional Development Australia Fund
- RDA Murray - A Regional Certifying Body
- Cancer Centre for the Murray/Hume region
- Corowa’s Festival of Fun For Kids

Round 1 - Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF)

The closing date for round one of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) is looming (**4.59pm 13 May 2011**). RDA Murray is actively encouraging all local government authorities and not for profit incorporated associations to apply for funding¹.

The Fund is a \$1 billion national grant program to support the infrastructure needs, and economic and community growth, of Australia’s regions.



Projects must be aligned with a respective RDA’s priorities set out in its regional plan. Regional Plans are developed by each RDA Committee and are strategic documents about their local region. To source a copy of RDA Murray’s Regional Plan, please go to our website www.rdamurray.org.au.

Projects put forward for funding under RDAF **must** be endorsed by the proponent’s respective RDA Committee

¹ For profit organizations, in order to apply for funding, must be part of a consortium with either a local government authority or not for profit incorporated association as the lead member of the consortium.



or Committees if the project is a cross border or cross region application. Applications will not be considered without the endorsement letter.

RDA Murray requests potential applicants to complete its project outline template and return to the Executive Officer. The template allows RDA Murray to gauge whether or not applications are aligned with its 2010 – 2015 Regional Plan. For a copy of this template, please click on RDA Fund at the RDA Murray website. If proponents are having trouble accessing this document, it is imperative that they contact RDA Murray’s Executive Assistant (02 6058 0600) to arrange for the form to be sent to them.

It is not an RDA Committee’s role to decide a project’s eligibility for the fund. It is the RDA Committee’s responsibility to provide an endorsement letter that advises whether or not an application is aligned with the Committee’s regional plan.

For further information about RDAF, please refer to www.rdamurray.org.au or contact our office.

RDA Murray - A Regional Certifying Body

Skill and labour shortages are an ongoing challenge for regional Australia. RDA Murray is accredited by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as a Regional Certifying Body (RCB). In its role as an RCB, RDA Murray addresses these issues by providing regional sponsorship to applicants under the Skilled Regional (Sponsored) Visa (Subclass 475/487).





eNewsletter

In 2009/2010, RDA Murray received 430 applications under the General Skill Migration program and 14 applications for the Regional Skilled Migration Scheme. There have been a diverse range of skills sets in these applications such as:

- Medical administrators
- Registered nurses
- Architects
- Civil engineers
- Audiologists

Applicants are requested to supply the following to obtain regional sponsorship under Skilled Regional (Sponsored) Visa (Subclass 475/487):

1. Completed RCB 475 or 487 Form
2. Resumé
3. Certified copy of passport
4. Certified copy of skills assessment
5. Certified copy of international English language test results
6. Certified copy of work references (minimum 12 months paid employment work experience)
7. Certified copy of Australia qualifications/ certificates (for subclass 487)

Applicants need to allow up to six weeks for the process and there is a certification fee of \$550.00 (inclusive of GST).

RDA Murray understands local industry and provides a unique regional



service to employers in the Murray region. RDA Murray is also authorized to provide certification under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. RDA Murray assists employers wishing to employ a skilled person from on-shore or off-shore and directs them to the correct information available to undertake this application.

For more information about this process, please contact RDA Murray or go to www.rdamurray.org.au and click on Skilled Migration.

Cancer Centre for the Murray/Hume Region

The Federal Government has announced that it will fund a \$65 million integrated regional cancer centre, to be located at the Albury campus of Albury Wodonga Health, in its 2011-2012 Budget.

The new centre will consolidate and expand existing cancer services in the region. Minister Crean in his announcement of the funding said "This new centre will transform the way patients in the Murray and Hume regions access specialist cancer services."



The new centre will deliver enhanced medical services including inpatient, ambulatory, haematology and oncology services including:

- An increase in the number of multiday inpatient services from 18 to 30 beds.
- An increase in the day oncology/haematology spaces from 18 to 30.
- A new paediatric chemotherapy suite.
- Support services, including a wellness centre, allied health, support and information services.
- The addition of a third linear accelerator.
- An upgrade of radiotherapy equipment and space for a fourth bunker to support future expansion.
- Flexible consultation rooms for visiting specialists and multidisciplinary teams.





eNewsletter

For cancer patients, having such a centre closer to their homes and families provides them with welcome relief from the relentless travel to and from the capital cities to seek treatment. Having support networks close by provides untold benefits to patients and their families alike in their time of need.

RDA Murray wishes to acknowledge the effort and long hours put in with revising and preparing the funding application, along with the steadfast and passionate support given to the project by the people of the region. Without this support and the tireless efforts of the local community, this vital service may never have come to fruition.

Corowa's Festival of Fun For Kids



Corowa Shire is holding its Festival of Fun For Kids on Sunday 15 May from 10am to 2pm. The Festival is a celebration of a community that has worked together to achieve something fantastic. The event will provide children and their families with the

opportunity to spend valuable time together in an environment where they can learn, be creative and have fun!

Community groups and organizations will be hosting a fantastic range of free children's activities including everything from arts and crafts to biscuit decorating, sport and gardening activities, just to name a few.

This fantastic event is being held at the Corowa Race Club, Cotton Street, South Corowa. For more information, please go to Corowa Shire's website (www.corowa.nsw.gov.au).

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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

www.rdamurray.org.au

for the most up-to-date information about programs and other items of interest.

RDA Murray also has a Facebook page. Here readers will also find information about funding and grants programs. You can find our page at www.facebook.com/rdamurray.

