



Edition 14 – November 2011

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

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Regional Development Australia – Murray

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From the Editor

Welcome to the November 2011 edition of the RDA Murray eNewsletter. RDA Murray welcomes all our readers to provide us with feedback and we would love to hear from you. Why not place an article in the eNewsletter? All items (with pictures preferred) can be sent to Julie.lawrence@rdamurray.org.au Until next time!

Julie

Skill Shortages within the Murray

Skill and labour shortages are an ongoing challenge for regional Australia. Within the Murray region, the top skill shortage occupations (but not limited to) are:

Medical Professionals	Dentists
Registered Nurses	Urban and Regional Planner
Diesel Motor Mechanics	Carpenters
Architects	Welders (First Class)
Metal Machinist	Metal Fabricators
Chefs	

Do you have the skills and experience to perform one of these roles? Did you know that 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)**. This above list is not exhaustive, and you are strongly encouraged to go onto RDA Murray's website (www.rdamurray.org.au) for more information about other occupations.

RDA Murray understands local industry and provides a unique regional service to employers in the Murray region by providing certification under the **Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme**. As an RCB, 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.

RDA Murray provides these services through its Skilled Migration Officer, Sushama Johnson who is available to take all enquiries in relation to the RCB services. Note an administration fee (incl. GST) applies for processing applications under the two abovementioned categories.

So what are you waiting for? Get online and check out RDA Murray's website for more information.





eNewsletter



Regional Development Australia Fund - Round 2

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees have a key role to play in shaping regional infrastructure investment to meet regional needs during Round Two of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP announced on 3 November the opening of Round 2, worth \$200 million.

Key aspects of Round 2 include a two stage application process that will reduce costs for applicants, local decision making is embedded in the process, and provide early certainty for proponents about the application. As part of this new role, RDA committees will review Expressions of Interest (EOI) from all potential applicants and select three viable priority projects for their region to progress to full application.

The new process for RDAF Round 2 is:

- Interested applicants are required to email an EOI form to their respective RDA Committee by Thursday **1 December 2011**.
- RDA Committees will review each EOI and select three viable priority projects for their region that will proceed to full application.
- Full applications will be assessed by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government against the eligibility and selection criteria, risk, and value for money.
- Applications will be considered by the RDAF Advisory Panel which will provide advice to the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP. The Minister will make decisions on projects to be funded.

In prioritising three viable priority projects, the Minister has asked RDA Committees to take into account the priorities of their Regional Plan, the capacity of the project to address needs in the region, the level of community support for the project, impact of the project on the region and neighbouring regions and readiness to proceed. The RDAF is worth almost \$1 billion over five years (some of which is subject to the passage of the Mineral Resources Rent Tax) and will boost economic and community development as part of the Australian Government's commitment to regional Australia.

All potential proponents need to access the department's website (www.regional.gov.au) for more information about RDAF Round 2. Information includes the guidelines, key dates and full details on the EOI process. To access RDA Murray's regional plan, please go to



RIVERINA RED GUM REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND ('RRGRECDF') - ROUND 2

The aim of the Riverina Red Gum Regional Employment and Community Development Fund (RRGRECDF) is to support initiatives that maximise economic and social development opportunities and will be of broad benefit to the communities of the NSW Riverina/Murray. The program is designed to benefit residents, businesses and workers in the local government areas of Balranald, Deniliquin, Murray, Conargo, Wakool, Berrigan and Murrumbidgee. This \$12 million program is part of the Government's \$97 million support package for timber industry workers and regional communities affected by the establishment of the River Red Gum protected areas in the Riverina/Murray. For further information on the overall support package visit the River Red Gums web site.

Objectives - The Objectives of the RRGRECDF are to:

- generate substantial and sustained local employment
- improve access to and availability of workforce development and training
- build community resilience and capacity to participate in the regional workforce
- help offset the cost of business and sectoral expansion in the region
- support the retention of jobs in the region.

Funding for 2011/2012 - Around \$2.5 million is available for allocation under Round 2 of the RRGRECDF. Grants from \$1,000 to \$200,000 will be available for individual projects. Round 2 will be a one stage application process with applications being accepted until Wednesday 11 January 2012.

Eligibility - Round 2 of the RRGRECDF is restricted to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). For the purposes of the RRGRECDF, SMEs are those with a maximum of 20 employees. All proposals will be considered, provided they are from SMEs, they meet the objectives of the RRGRECDF and are within the local government areas of Murray, Conargo, Deniliquin, Wakool, Balranald, Berrigan or Murrumbidgee.

Contact the Office of Environment & Heritage on (02) 8837 6093 or email info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au or go to <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/2011RiverRedGum.htm> for more information.



Office of Environment & Heritage



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative



Riverina Murray Homelessness Action Plan (HAP) Update

A lot has been happening on the HAP front. Firstly last month, Sharon Gudu, the Manager of the NSW Housing Homelessness Unit based in Ashfield, visited the RDA Murray Office with Craig Iskov, the Acting Area Director of the Riverina Murray Housing NSW, as part of her tour around the region. Meeting with Sherri Driver (HAP Program Manager) gave Sharon the chance to discuss the challenges, achievements and innovations of the project to date and to develop an understanding of issues that impact people experiencing Primary Homelessness and Tenancies at Risk in the region. Sharon's tour of the region will take in Deniliquin, Moama and Wagga and Sharon is looking forward to meeting the Service Agencies of the Riverina Murray.

Secondly, earlier this month, Sherri attended a HNSW led Aboriginal Homelessness Conference in Sydney. The forum was attended by Homelessness and HAP delegates from across NSW. The conference acknowledged that homelessness affects many Aboriginal people and the purpose of the forum was focused on strategies and information sharing around Best Practice Service Delivery for Aboriginal clients through the Homelessness Action Plan initiatives. Sylvia Terare from the Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service who is an integral partner in the Riverina Murray HAP Program attended the forum with Sherri to discuss her perceptions and experiences within the Riverina Murray project, and issues affecting Aboriginal people in the Riverina Murray region. Sherri joined a discussion panel to share her experiences in the Riverina Murray.



Sherri Driver & Sylvia Terare

RDA Murray would like to thank Sylvia and the Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Medical Service for attending and the valued participation on the day.

Be on the alert for Scams!

The ACCC via their SCAMwatch website are warning social networking users to be aware of scam posts which offer fake gift vouchers or products for free. This is a timely reminder especially coming up to Christmas. The vouchers are offered in exchange for personal details and passing on a scam link to friends.



How the scam works

- You will see a post on a social networking site offering free gift vouchers or products. Recent scams have offered fake vouchers for supermarkets and coffee shops. Others have offered free products such as smartphones, tablet devices and laptops.
- The scam abuses brand names and logos of well know companies and products in order to make the offers look legitimate.
- To claim the voucher or product you may be asked to first 'Like' a Facebook page, share the scam post with friends and follow a link to complete a scam survey. The survey will ask for personal details which scammers can then use to commit identify theft.
- If you fall victim to the scam you will never receive the product or voucher. If you print an online voucher it will be a fake which is not honoured or of any value.
- In more sophisticated versions of this scam, clicking on lines may cause your social media account to become hijacked or compromised. A hijacked account will spam your friends with more scam post.
- Similar scams also are perpetrated via email with links to online scam surveys.

For more information about this scam and other ones, go to www.scamwatch.gov.au.

