



## YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERING – MID NORTH PROJECT

Media release Monday 28 October 2019

The Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council, Goyder Regional Council and Wakefield Regional Council are collaborating through their Regional Local Government Association the Legatus Group and Adelaide University to deliver stage 1 of a Youth into Volunteering Project.

This project was identified by a 2018 Yorke and Mid North regional leadership program and through linkages the Legatus Group have been making with Volunteering SA&NT, SAFECOM, Dept Human Services, Commissioner for Children and Young People and local service and community groups this project is now linked to the Volunteering Strategy for SA to:

- Strengthen and promote volunteering among young South Australians as a pathway to job ready skills, employment, and lifelong learning, wellbeing and development.
- Enhance regional communities through volunteering.

The Legatus Group were able to secure funding through the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund and Simon Millcock the Legatus Group CEO said, "This was based on regional South Australia being heavily reliant on a strong and vibrant volunteering base. Which is of major significance in the Mid North due to the region having one of the oldest populations in Australia."

"This higher proportion of seniors within the region can contribute to increased pressure on local services and organisations whilst also reflective in the higher number of people volunteering (31%) compared to South Australia (21%). With concerns that without a proactive approach to building a culture for encouraging youth into volunteering the region faces the potential of not being able to function as effectively as it has been, which in turn provides a greater burden on local government to provide increased services."

Adelaide University Associate Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray will be leading the research project during October to December 2019 that will seek to allow a better understanding of the following key questions:

- Who does volunteer and in what areas?
- What volunteer needs are?
- What are the barriers to and opportunities of volunteering for youth?
- What areas would interest youth to participate in such activities?

Associate Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray said, "I'm looking forward to being in the region and engaging with youth and volunteer groups and will be using a number of approaches to gain information for the final report. The report will be useful across regional South Australia and will assist the Legatus Group with a series of sub-regional projects in early 2020. This will be the third research project that I have overseen with the Legatus Group in 2019 which are helping to provide practical evidence based approaches to issues facing regional communities."

The Legatus Group have also secured funding from the Local Government Research and Development Grant which will be used for trial projects as part of stage 2 of the Youth into Volunteering Project and the research is planned to help identifying projects and volunteer groups for the trials.

This project is being run in parallel with the research by the Volunteer Services Branch of SAFECOM project titled the Emergency Services Business Network who have forums in Clare on Wednesday 6 November and Balaklava Friday 8 November.

For further information or to gain a one on one meeting with the research team contact Associate Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray on phone 0437 738 635 email [melissa.nursey-bray@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:melissa.nursey-bray@adelaide.edu.au)

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