

media release

Australian Broadcasting Corporation



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Youth innovation to become a reality in regional Australia

Eight inspiring and innovative ideas developed by young people at the 2016 ABC Heywire Regional Youth Summit will soon be implemented all over the nation, thanks to over \$150,000 in grants announced today at an event in Melbourne, hosted by the ABC.

Nineteen communities will receive Youth Innovation Grants from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) to enable them to run projects developed by regional youth, for regional youth through the 2016 Heywire program.

The eight projects reflect the concerns of young regional Australians, and include practical strategies to revitalise small towns, combat racism, connect disengaged youth, support those impacted by substance abuse, challenge traditional gender roles, support LGBTQIA wellbeing, connect students with peer mentors and empower people with disability.

The innovative ideas range from a youth led tourism campaign to showcase the hidden gems of rural Australia, to a series of podcasts connecting LGBTQIA teens in regional and remote communities.

Fitina Maulidi of Shepparton, Victoria, was a 2016 Heywire winner. As a Youth Summit participant, her group developed the Magnifying Mentoring idea, which seeks to connect young, local role models with teenagers in their final years of high school to help the students reach their potential. Such mentoring projects are few and far between in regional towns. Now she's teamed up with Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Inc to make the idea into a reality thanks to one of the FRRR grants.

"I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I was young when the war began. I flew to a refugee camp with my beloved father and other siblings. I lived in a camp where children don't have access to education and are not able to achieve their goals. I had to come to another country to get a better education," said Fitina. *"Living in Australia, I have realised that a lot of kids take education for granted. Our idea would help disengaged kids to see the opportunities that are all around them."*

The Youth Innovation Grants program is a unique partnership between the ABC and FRRR which enables young people to not only have a say about the future of regional Australia, but drive real change in their communities. The grants assist not-for-profit community-based organisations in rural, regional and remote Australia to adopt and act on one of the innovative Heywire project ideas. The communities selected to pilot the programs will implement their projects in the next 12 months from September 2016.

Details of all 19 projects funded are listed below and can also be found on the Heywire website:

abc.net.au/heywire

2016 FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants Recipients

	Idea / Applicant	Location		Grant Amount
Back to Bush				
Production of a youth led tourism campaign and materials to encourage visitors to experience rural, regional and remote communities through a local's eyes, by showcasing the hidden gems of the region.				
1	Eurobodalla Youth Committee (Eurobodalla Shire Council)	Moruya	NSW	\$10,000
2	Hindmarsh Shire Council	Nhill	VIC	\$10,000
Cooking for Cohesion				
Increasing understanding and tolerance in regional communities through the delivery of a program whereby young people work with local home cooks from different ethnic backgrounds in practical and interactive educational workshops.				
3	District Council of Coober Pedy	Coober Pedy	SA	\$9,700
4	Illawarra Sports High School	Wollongong	NSW	\$6,700
5	Snowy Monaro Regional Council (Cooma-Monaro Shire Council)	Cooma	NSW	\$4,225
6	The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Rockhampton – Emmaus College	North Rockhampton	QLD	\$1,500
Dot 2 Dot				
A volunteering and community engagement project that enables young people, who may be disconnected because of isolation, disability or mental health, to gain valuable skills, which can open doors to future employment and other opportunities.				
7	Northern Grampians Shire Council	Stawell	VIC	\$10,000
Magnify Mentoring				
A mentoring program to connect young, local role models with students in their community, to help the students continue educational engagement and reach their own definitions of success.				
8	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	WA	\$10,000
9	Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Ltd	Shepparton	VIC	\$7,500
10	South Coast Beef Producers Assn Inc	Nowra	NSW	\$10,000
No Limits Network				
A job network event with a difference - bringing together young people with a disability and local employers at a an inspiring and empowering event, showcasing speakers who have excelled in their field and happen to have a disability and practical advice, such as tips for employers to create disability-friendly workplaces.				
11	Gladstone & District Christian Broadcasting Assn Inc	Gladstone	QLD	\$10,000
Operation Defrost				
A media project that creates a safe place for young people who have experienced ice abuse in their families to publicly share their stories, helping to build understanding and support within regional communities and to combat the spread of ice.				
12	Greater Hume Shire Council	Culcairn	NSW	\$4,693

	Idea / Applicant	Location		Grant Amount
13	Uniting Communities Inc	Mount Gambier	SA	\$10,000
RAGE RAGE (Rural Australians for Gender Equality) is a youth led event for the whole community which celebrates people in rural, regional and remote Australia who are pushing back against the expectations of traditional gender roles – showcasing and sharing experiences of living with and overcoming the constraints of gender expectations.				
14	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Goulburn	NSW	\$10,000
15	Mitchell Shire Council	Seymour	VIC	\$9,943
16	Young Leaders in Livingstone (Livingstone Shire Council)	Yeppoon	QLD	\$3,000
RegionALL A series of Podcasts to connect LGBTQIA teens in rural, regional and remote communities via conversations by LGBTQIA people and straight allies. The youth led project will work to normalise queer issues and invite listeners from all backgrounds to tune in and contribute.				
17	Mansfield Shire Council	Mansfield	VIC	\$4,857
18	Regional Youth Support Services Inc	Gosford	NSW	\$10,000
19	Working it Out Inc	Various	TAS	\$10,000

About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) was established in 2000 to support the renewal of rural, regional and remote communities in Australia through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and governments. In its first ten years, FRRR managed the distribution of nearly \$60 million in grants and provided substantial capacity building support to community organisations across the nation. To find out more about FRRR, visit www.frrr.org.au.

About ABC Heywire

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's annual Heywire program is a platform for the stories and ideas of young regional Australians. Over the past 19 years more than 10,000 young Australians have taken part. People aged 16-22 can put their hand up to be part of next year's Heywire Summit, by sharing a story about their life in regional Australia in the 2016 Heywire competition at abc.net.au/heywire/competition. Entries close 16 September 2016.

Heywire recognises the support of the Australian Government through the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation; the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development; the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources; the Department of Social Services; and the Department of Health.

For more information and to interview a Heywire Ambassador, please contact:

Dan Hirst – Executive Producer, Heywire: 03 9626 1861 / 0419 102 637 hirst.daniel@abc.net.au
Ruby Grennan – Regional Marketing Manager: 0400 704 770 grennan.ruby@abc.net.au