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New Trailblazers program for young regional game changers

Minister Nash announces support for young leaders in regional Australia

LONGREACH: The ABC and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development have partnered to announce a new program supporting young innovators in regional Australia.

The Trailblazers program is an opportunity for people, aged 18 – 28, who are implementing positive change in their region, to have their work celebrated nationally.

Trailblazers receive an amazing package of support, that includes having their story told on the ABC, and a trip to the Trailblazer Lab in Canberra next February. The Lab is a five-day intensive experience, to empower young, regional leaders, share their stories and build their leadership capacity.

“Trailblazers builds on the success of the ABC’s Heywire regional youth program, and doubles down on our commitment to champion young people who are building a bright future for regional Australia,” says Fiona Reynolds, ABC’s Director, Regional.

“Participants will have an unparalleled opportunity to share their stories of positive change with a massive national audience.”

Federal Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash said the launch of the Trailblazer Program is a testament to ABC Heywire’s growing appeal among young people in rural, regional, and remote communities right across Australia.

“I am absolutely delighted to be in Longreach today with the Member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, to launch the Trailblazer Program which will see a stronger and even more successful Heywire into the future.

“This initiative means that the many young people who are already helping to solve the challenges and seize the opportunities that life in the bush can present have the means to reach an even bigger and broader audience and to put some of their ideas into action.

“Their projects – which will include local or regional events, producing cutting-edge documentaries and social media campaigns – will shine a light on a whole raft of regional issues and how best to deal with these,” Minister Nash said today.

Who can apply to be a Trailblazer?

Individuals and groups of up to three, aged 18-28, who are initiating projects that create positive change in their communities. From young community leaders to social entrepreneurs, advocates to event organisers, we’re looking for young people with a commitment to making regional Australia even better.

What do Trailblazers receive?

- A trip to the Trailblazers Lab in Canberra in February
- Their story told on ABC platforms
- Extensive networking, mentoring and leadership opportunities

Applications close Monday 24 July, 2017, visit abc.net.au/trailblazers.

Trailblazers is run by the ABC’s Heywire regional youth program and supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Photos and interviews are available with Trailblazers from last year’s pilot program.

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