

## MI Grants boost local communities

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) has announced the successful recipients of its inaugural Community Grants Program, with funding awarded to a diverse range of community-led initiatives that will deliver positive social, educational, cultural, wellbeing and community benefits across the region.

The program attracted strong interest from organisations and community groups throughout the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA), highlighting the breadth of work being undertaken by volunteers, charities, schools and community organisations to strengthen local communities.

Funding was awarded across a wide range of sectors, including education, youth development, arts and culture, community support, health and wellbeing, community facilities and volunteer-led organisations. Successful projects included initiatives supporting young people, enhancing educational opportunities, promoting social inclusion, improving community infrastructure, supporting families experiencing hardship, encouraging participation in community activities, and strengthening connections across the region.

MI Chief Executive Officer Phillip Holliday said the response to the inaugural program reinforced the strength and generosity of local communities.

“One of the most rewarding parts of this process was seeing the extraordinary work being carried out every day by community organisations across our region,” he said.

“From supporting young people and improving community wellbeing, to creating inclusive spaces, celebrating culture and helping people through difficult times, the applications demonstrated just how much passion and commitment exists within our communities.”

“While we couldn't support every project, we worked hard to ensure funding was distributed fairly across different communities, locations and types of organisations so the benefits of the program could be shared as broadly as possible throughout the region.”

“These organisations play an important role in bringing people together, supporting those in need and creating opportunities for others. We are proud to be able to support their efforts and look forward to seeing the positive impact these projects deliver over the coming months and years.”

Applications were assessed by the MI Community Advisory Committee against the program's objectives, with funding requests significantly exceeding the funding available. The committee considered community benefit, alignment with program objectives, potential impact and the desire to support a broad range of initiatives across the region.

Mr Holliday said the overwhelming response highlighted the ongoing need for investment in grassroots community initiatives.

“The number and quality of applications received clearly show there is no shortage of people willing to make a difference in their communities,” he said.

“This program is one way MI can contribute to building strong, resilient and connected communities, and we thank every organisation that took the time to apply and for the valuable work they undertake.”

The Community Grants Program forms part of MI's broader commitment to supporting thriving, inclusive and resilient communities throughout its area of operations.

*Media contact: Communications Coordinator Peter Duncan 0427 235 646*