



Funding support for Strathalbyn Veterans' Initiatives

Of the \$695,413 funding to be spread across Australia, four South Australian projects have attracted funding from the pool.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, today announced \$695,413 in funding to support initiatives that promote good health and wellbeing for veterans and widows across Australia.

Mr Griffin said the funding, made available through the Australian Government's Veteran & Community Grants program, would benefit some 11,600 members of the veteran community.

Regional groups to benefit in S.A.

The Strathalbyn RSL Sub-branch will receive \$44,683 to help refurbish the clubroom kitchen, complete associated electrical work and install vinyl floor coverings.

At Strathalbyn the plan has been drawn up for the RSL's new kitchen, with work expected to begin at the end of August, following the 2010 Strathalbyn Collectors, Hobbies and Antique Fair.

Project manager, Les Falkai said "The whole

kitchen will be gutted to make way for the locally built, Space Craft Joinery kitchen."

The refurbished kitchen will include the newly purchased stove, range hood and fridge, while retaining the kitchen's existing pie warmer and dish washer.

Space Craft Joinery and Philip James Electrical are both local contractors and have been hired for the RSL's kitchen refurbishment as the project manager wished to support local businesses.

Mr Falkai acknowledged the support of Michael Pengilly Member for Finniss, Jamie Briggs Federal Member for Mayo, Adrian Pederick Member for Hammond, the Alexandrina Council and the Rotary Club of Strathalbyn in gaining the Veterans' Initiatives funding.

The Blackwood and District RSL Club will receive \$5500 to help purchase a mounted ceiling

projector and screen to enhance activities at the club.

The Barmera RSL Sub-branch will receive \$22,500 to help upgrade the toilet facilities, insulate a wall and refurbish flooring at the club.

The Largs Bay RSL sub-branch will receive \$65,500 to help upgrade and improve the disabled toilet facilities at the club.

"Men's Sheds, Day Clubs and the social activities organised by RSL sub-branches make a big difference to veterans' lives and I'm pleased to announce the Government's support for these supportive and inclusive community activities," Mr Griffin said.

"Today's funding supports initiatives encouraging healthy, social and active lifestyles for the veteran community, some with a particular focus on nutrition such as cooking classes.

Mr Griffin said this year's Veterans' Health

Week, to be held from 19 to 25 July, will focus on the importance of good nutrition.

"Local organisations play a vital role in encouraging healthy eating in the veteran community, particularly through initiatives funded through Veteran & Community Grants," he said.

Veteran & Community Grants also help to fund a wide range of initiatives including programs to improve social interaction and access to community care services.

"It is important that veterans, war widows and widowers have access to activities that give them the skills to remain healthy, independent and active, particularly for those living by themselves," Mr Griffin said.

Mr Griffin encouraged local and community organisations interested in applying for funding to contact their nearest DVA office.



Gwenda Knights from the Uniting Church Catering Team and Strathalbyn RSL Sub-branch Project Manager, Les Falkai stirring the soup for a recent Legacy Widows Luncheon - they look forward to the kitchen refurbishment completion.