



Local Government
Professionals
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA, SA

23RD ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICES
AND DEVELOPMENT FINALISTS

23RD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Award Finalists EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

THANKS TO



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City of Onkaparinga Youth Team - Shaping Local Civic Youth Leaders

Why should young people care about voting or local government?

Shaping Local Civic Youth Leaders is an innovative project supporting empowerment, education and amplification of young voices through the increased participation of young people in local government and the democratic process.

Through a dynamic suite of programs including a youth-led 'Community Changemakers Summit,' a captivating 'Love the Journey' digital storytelling campaign, and a purposeful digital toolkit for youth advisory committees, this transformative experience provided resources and opportunities centred on local government, democracy, influence, leadership and sustainability. Each program serves as a catalyst for change, breaking down barriers to youth engagement and inspiring a new generation of informed, active citizens. Over 12 months, the initiative strategically implemented across various activities, reached an estimated 800 young people aged 12–25 across South Australia, with ECSA reporting increases in registered youth between March 2022 and September 2023. The project wasn't just about voting; it was about instilling a sense of control, purpose and active participation in the decisions that shape our communities, achieved by an authentic co-designed process with young people.

Funded by the LG Research & Development Scheme and delivered by Onkaparinga Youth in collaboration with Ripple, Youth Affairs Council of SA, LG Youth Development Network and passionate young state leaders, the initiative is a testament to the collaborative power of diverse stakeholders.

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City of Port Adelaide Enfield Community Development Section - Supporting our Most Vulnerable Communities

City of Port Adelaide Enfield is proud to showcase a range of integrated, sustainable transformative initiatives that address vulnerability and poverty in our communities - food insecurity, loneliness and homelessness.

The first, a volunteer driven initiative 'Towards a Food Secure Community: Building Social Capital' addresses the challenges of food insecurity. Beginning as a food relief market, this initiative has evolved into a vibrant local community lunch model, nurturing community champions and providing access to nutritious food whilst fostering social connections.

Poverty and food insecurity are directly related to a lack of meaningful social connection. Recognising this, City of Port Adelaide Enfield launched the Happy to Chat initiative, in collaboration with Wellbeing SA, UniSA and the Office of Ageing Well. This initiative tackles loneliness head-on through providing opportunities for participation and connection and has seen 39 face-to-face sessions held in retail locations, connecting over 250 community members with volunteers.

City of Port Adelaide Enfield's commitment to homelessness also sees them delivering direct outreach alongside being an advocate and facilitator through participation in the Zero Homelessness project with the SA Alliance to End Homelessness, and Affordable Housing Program.

Through these integrated initiatives, City of Port Adelaide Enfield is building systematic alliances with Food Relief Agencies, Wellbeing SA, DHS, local governments, business, Universities, ANWHA, SAPOL, Housing SA, Uniting SA, and Feros Care, demonstrating a commitment to positive, practical community solutions.

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City of Onkaparinga Active Ageing Team - Living Well Matters

By 2056 more than one-in-four Australians will be aged over 65 with an estimated average life expectancy exceeding 95 years. Flourishing in one's second half of life is not guaranteed, so the City of Onkaparinga has been developing, implementing, and evaluating a suite of programs that support the journey from 50 years onward, aiming to smooth the challenges, changes and transitions people experience in these 40 or more years.

Gathered under the distinctive Living Well Matters brand, the suite of standalone but dovetailed community programs assists individuals to age well physically, emotionally and mentally.

All initiatives were developed with retirement, resilience, and the realities of ageing in mind, and each aimed at a different life age and stage. These include:

- Retirement transition, suitable for those aged 55–65
- Active retirement optimised through good physical health, suitable for those aged 60–70+
- Confidence and self-efficacy with Because I Can, created internally for participants and staff to support older clients
- Positive mental wellbeing in later life with Boost Your Resilience for those aged 65 and above
- Practical preparation for the realities of ageing, e.g. housing, care and funerals in Planning to Flourish, an eight-week conversation group co-delivered with Zest Creative.

The programs have either been tailored to local needs in partnership with community organisations, translated directly from the evidence base through collaboration with researchers, or used community codesign to create brand new bespoke approaches to ageing well. All have been designed to be easily shared with other councils through a train-the-trainer approach, contributing to a broader community impact.

Living Well Matters programs and resources have been shared across the Inner Southern Council collaborative, delivered to more than 400 community members, used to activate community spaces, and presented at the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) National Conference. Participants identified clear post-workshop goals and behaviour changes, with 97% recommending the workshops to friends.

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Coorong District Council Community Development Team - Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Coorong District Council's Community Sustainability Program was established to implement a succession plan for long term and sustainable volunteer led local community groups and organisations.

With volunteering on the decline and the need to support their Community Groups and Sporting Clubs evident, a Community Development Special Projects Officer was appointed to undertake a community needs analysis to identify what assistance was needed to help these groups become and remain sustainable and resilient.

Outcomes of the needs analysis led to the delivery of a Community Sustainability Program, focused on the retention and recruitment of volunteers, Grant Writing & Seeking, Marketing & Promotion, Governance, Cyber Security and Conflict Management among other topics.

17 Separate workshops, events and activities were undertaken during 2023, attracting over 350 participants and representing approximately 90 of Council's combined 129 Community Groups and Sporting Clubs. Due to the large geographical area of the Coorong District and the diverse make up of volunteers, various workshop times and venues were trialled, with workshops delivered district wide, providing the opportunity for local halls and clubs to host sessions.

The support, mentoring and guidance of Council's Community Development Special Projects Officer and capacity building through opportunities provided to volunteers resulted in \$850,000 of external funding being injected into Community Groups and Sporting Club projects in the region.

Not only are volunteers now more confident and proactive but the relationships between Council and Community is continually growing and strengthening, resulting in widespread community engagement.

2024 will see the delivery of Phase 2, which will offer more personalised, intimate mentoring and support to Sporting Clubs and Community Groups throughout the Coorong District Council.

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