

Media Release

Corporate Communications
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Applications for regional funding closing soon

Community organisations in regional Australia are being encouraged to apply for funding of up to \$10,000 through the Seeds of Renewal program for projects to help the growth of their community.

Seeds of Renewal is funded by ANZ and independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). Applications close on Friday 19 June.

ANZ Managing Director Retail Distribution, Louis Hawke said: "We are committed to regional Australia in the good times and the hard times. This is one of the ways we are supporting our local communities, particularly those in smaller areas that are facing challenges due to the global economic downturn.

More than \$2 million has been distributed to 467 community projects across Australia since the program began six years ago. \$300,000 will be available for community groups in 2009.

The theme for the 2009 grants is 'Strengthening Community Enterprise'. Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN in communities with a population of 15,000 or less and should display:

- how the funding will contribute to a community enterprise
- how the project will support local volunteer initiatives
- how the project demonstrates community collaboration

FRRR Chief Executive Officer, Sylvia Admans said: "Regional communities are incredibly resilient and innovative. We're encouraging people to think of ways they could use a grant to help the ongoing health and growth of their local community through community and social enterprise projects."

The use of previous grants includes:

- a wind turbine for a small community school and meeting place
- a portable outdoor movie projector
- resources for a mobile early childhood service
- the development of a community market garden
- the establishment of a free community lending library

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in August 2009, when grants will be distributed. For more information or to apply for a Seeds of Renewal grant visit www.frrr.org.au.

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