



MSAC announces grants to boost community health and safety

November 9, 2012

Community groups in Gunnedah and Boggabri will receive \$15,000 to encourage health and safety practices thanks to the Mine Safety Advisory Council.

The Shanti Mission Harmony Centre will receive \$10,000 and the Boggabri Showground and Recreation Trust will receive \$5000 as part of the MSAC's 2012 Community Grants Project.

The Council received 177 applications for grants of up to \$10,000 from a total pool of \$150,000.

A total of 20 grant recipients will receive cheques from MSAC Chairman John Hannaford at ceremonies in Newcastle, Gunnedah and Muswellbrook on November 8 and 9.

One of the projects that closely aligns with an MSAC health and safety priority area is in dealing with stress and depression.

The Shanti Mission Harmony Centre in Gunnedah, will use its money to fund free individual and group classes for teaching people how to effectively deal with stress and depression.

The grants targeted mining communities in the Hunter Valley, Central Coast and North West of the state looking for ideas to address health and safety issues in their local communities.

Mr Hannaford said it was impressive that so many applicants had taken on board good health and safety practices.

"The Mine Safety Advisory Council will continue to promote health and safety issues both within the mining industry and also in the communities in which mine workers live," Mr Hannaford said.

"The same principles that apply to a safe workplace also apply at home. This was the chance for schools and community groups to make a difference and ensure mining industry safety principles are also applied to communities."

MSAC is a collaborative forum between NSW Trade & Investment, the NSW Minerals Council, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia, the Australian Workers Union and the CFMEU – Mining and Energy Division. MSAC also has independent members who have expertise in health and safety.

Venue: Smithurst Theatre, Conadilly Street, Gunnedah (next door to Town Hall)
Friday 9.30am, 9 November 2012

Media contact: Jenny Ward on 0429305950