



MSAC announces grants to boost community health and safety

November 8, 2012

Twenty community groups in the Hunter Valley will receive thousands of dollars to encourage strong health and safety practices, thanks to the Mine Safety Advisory Council, as part of the Council's annual Community Grants Program:

Grants will go to six Newcastle projects:

- The Hunter Wetlands Centre,
- Paraquod Association of NSW
- Rural Outreach Project,
- St John Ambulance Adamstown RSL Cadet Division,
- Gateway Learning Community and
- National Heart Foundation.

In total fourteen recipients from the lower Hunter will receive cheques from MSAC Chairman, John Hannaford at a ceremony in Newcastle on November 8. Six other grants will be awarded at Gunnedah and Muswellbrook on November 9.

Projects in Cessnock, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Scone and Port Stephens were also successful.

Grants of up to \$10,000 each were available from a total pool of \$150,000. MSAC received 177 applications.

One projects which closely aligns with an MSAC health and safety priority area deals with mental illness.

Gateway Learning Community will use its \$10,000 to target the mental health and wellbeing of families in Beresfield, Blackhill, Millers Forest, Tarro, Thornton and Woodberry. The group will conduct five training days for families and community organisations.

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

“The same principles which apply to a safe workplace also apply at home. This has been 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.

Award event: 11am, Thursday November 8, Hunter Wetlands Centre, 412 Sandgate Road, Shortland

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