



Ben Franklin
Minister for Regional Youth

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGIONAL YOUTH SUPPORTED BY WELLBEING RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Councils, schools, not-for-profit organisations and Local Aboriginal Land Councils are encouraged to apply for grants to deliver projects that support recovery, boost resilience and support mental health and wellbeing for regional young people.

Minister for Regional Youth Ben Franklin today announced the \$10.3 million Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative that will help regional youth recover from the impacts of natural disasters and COVID-19.

“The past few years have been difficult for many in our regions, but particularly regional young people who have had to contend with the changes that come with growing up in the midst of bushfires, floods, a mouse plague and COVID-19,” Mr Franklin said.

“These grants will support projects that build resilience of young people for future adverse events and help regional youth bounce back stronger and be more connected with their peers and communities than ever before.”

Mr Franklin said larger grants will fund projects that support the wellbeing of young people, support recovery activities and build resilience, while smaller grants (under \$10,000) will fund projects that promote social inclusion and community connections for regional youth aged 0-24.

“The types of projects funded by larger grants include things like community events, peer support groups, cultural connection or partnership programs, while smaller grants will fund initiatives like sporting programs and barbecues,” Mr Franklin said.

“Regional Youth Community Coordinators are available to assist regional communities to identify projects that will boost resilience and strengthen community and youth networks across regional NSW.”

\$1.5 million is available for small grants across regional NSW and \$5.2 million for larger grants through Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative program, as part of the NSW COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.

The NSW and Commonwealth governments have made a 50:50 contribution for storm and flood affected areas with a further \$3.6 million available from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Federal Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience, Senator Bridget McKenzie said the third program will create initiatives, events and resources for children and youth living in storm and flood impacted regions.

“This funding will help regional young people recover, build resilience and improve wellbeing within their communities and provide them all with the tools they need to thrive in the wake of significant storms and floods,” Ms McKenzie said.

Small grants are for up to \$10,000 and larger grants are for between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

Applications are open now and close on 31 December 2022 or when fully allocated.

For program and eligibility guidelines, visit nsw.gov.au/YouthWellbeing

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