

May 3, 2021

## Community Wellbeing Grants of up to \$10,000 now available

Wentworth Healthcare, the provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, have launched grants of up to \$10,000 for organisations or community groups based within bushfire affected communities in the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow areas. The grants are part of the Federal Government's response to the 2019/20 bushfires, and can be used to deliver activities that foster connection, friendships and relationships, build community capacity, skills or knowledge, and which promote and/or refer to support services.

These larger grants follow on from the micro-grants of up to \$1,000 that were released late last year for individuals directly impacted by the fires, within the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow areas, to conduct small grass roots community connection activities.

Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay, acknowledged the challenges many communities within the region had faced over the past 18 months and emphasised the important role that community grants play in aiding community recovery.

"We know that community connection and cohesion is vital for community recovery during and after times of adversity. The Community Wellbeing Grants enable people to actively participate in their community's recovery journey. They bring people together and allow them to choose their own way to respond to the loss, anxiety and distress they have experienced," she said.

A range of projects and activities may be considered appropriate for funding, including, but not limited to:

- social connection events that bring the community together to build networks and friendships through group activities
- community events or workshops that promote resilience and reduce stigma
- projects that are recovery focused and aim to build on the community resilience, healing and capacity building
- sharing information about available community resources and services and how to access them
- programs aimed at building community networks and social cohesion
- workshops and events that provide practical advice and encourage skills development
- complementary and lifestyle interventions known to improve physical health and wellbeing, that can be delivered in a group setting, such as exercise and wellbeing classes

Individual healthcare providers, other sole traders or for-profit businesses need to partner with a not-for-profit community organisation to be eligible to apply.

“We’ve had a fabulous response to our smaller micro-grants, with nearly 40 small community projects across the region now underway. These have included activities such as local craft events, mindfulness workshops, dance lessons, picnics, live music and more.”

“We hope to see a similar interest in the ‘up to \$10,000’ grants and we’re really excited to see what ideas come through,” she said.

The Grants of up to \$10,000 will **close at 11.59pm Friday 14 May**. The micro-grants of up to \$1,000 will remain open **until funding is exhausted**. For more information including the full application guidelines and to apply, go to [www.nbmphn.com.au/communitygrants](http://www.nbmphn.com.au/communitygrants)

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