

News Release

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ANZ celebrates 20 years of Seeds of Renewal by awarding 20 grants to rural communities

ANZ and the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) have awarded \$250,000 in grants to 20 regional community groups and not-for-profit organisations through the [ANZ Seeds of Renewal program](#).

Jenefer Stewart, ANZ General Manager Business Banking, said: "We understand small communities face unique challenges in terms of access to services and community facilities. Seeds of Renewal aims to support these communities by funding projects that address some of these challenges.

"This year is really special as it marks 20 years of ANZ delivering Seeds of Renewal. In that time, we have provided more than \$5.5m to 800 community groups, supporting approximately 900 projects, that have helped to build vibrant and sustainable rural communities and ensure the ongoing prosperity of regional Australia," Ms Stewart said.

The 2022 program supported remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to improve their town's environmental sustainability; increase financial wellbeing in communities, particularly those with disadvantaged or minority groups; or improve housing access for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and for people living with a disability; and other projects that help communities to thrive.

FRRR's CEO, Natalie Egleton, said that long-term partnerships like this mean that community groups know that there will be funding available to help them respond to the myriad of challenges and opportunities that they face now, and in the future.

"These communities are extremely resilient and self-reliant but sometimes they need support to help them bring their ideas to fruition. Partnerships like the one that FRRR has had with ANZ over the last 20 years mean that they know that funding will be available, and so they can plan and work toward improving their community for the challenges ahead. We greatly appreciate ANZ's ongoing support and look forward to it continuing for many years to come," Ms Egleton said.

Since being established in 2003, ANZ Seeds of Renewal has awarded \$5.5 million to around 900 projects. Some examples of the 20 projects funded this year include:

Environmental Sustainability

- Narrabri Shire Community Radio Incorporated, Narrabri, NSW - Install Roof Top Solar Panels and Battery. Boost organisational capacity using green solar energy to reduce emissions and operation costs at Narrabri community radio station. \$15,000

Financial Wellbeing

- Australian Agricultural Centre, Crookwell, NSW - Australian Agricultural Centre Limited Youth AG Activation. Provide key skills training to increase employability of young people in Crookwell in agriculture. \$15,000

Housing Access

- Phoenix Place Inc, Mackay, QLD - Teen and Adult Social Connection Space. Enable people living with a disability in Mackay to access a drop in social space for connecting with peers. \$8,900

Thriving Communities

- Hub Foundation Castlemaine Limited, Castlemaine VIC - YIMBY Gymby. Boost the capacity of backyard composting through engaging young volunteers to support older community members in Castlemaine. \$11,330

The full list of the recipients is on FRRR's website.

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About Seeds of Renewal: Since 2003, the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program has provided more than \$5.5 million to support around 900 community projects. Administered independently by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program offers grants of up to \$15,000 to community groups for projects that support environmental sustainability; improve access to housing; or financial wellbeing in regional communities of fewer than 15,000 people.

About FRRR: The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal - FRRR - (phonetically: F-triple-R) - is the only national foundation specifically focused on ensuring the social and economic strength of remote, rural and regional communities. FRRR's unique model connects common purposes and investment with locally prioritised needs, to create communities that are vital and resilient. Since FRRR's start in 2000, it has delivered nearly \$155 million to more than 13,000 projects. To find out more about FRRR, visit www.frrr.org.au.