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MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 Funding assistance for community groups

24 June 2020

Alexandrina Council has recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily affected the region's community groups and supported a notice of motion from Port Elliot-Middleton Ward Councillor Bronwyn Lewis to offer financial assistance.

At its meeting on Monday 22 June, Council supported an allocation of funds from the 2019-20 financial year as a once off COVID-19 initiative to support Community Centres across Alexandrina in recognition that our community is going through a global situation that is unprecedented.

The financial assistance will support the community-run organisations to meet the increased demand for support for vulnerable and disadvantaged community members and assist community centres to meet unexpected funding shortfalls and increased operational costs as they recover from the pandemic.

The funding will be divided across the region to include centres in Goolwa (\$80,000), Strathalbyn (40,000), Milang (\$20,000), Mount Compass (\$10,000) and Langhorne Creek (\$10,000).

Council will also help promote philanthropic grants available to the organisations, which may help maximise their revenue. These include paying for subscriptions to directories including Philanthropy Australia Directory of Funders and Our Community Funding Centre.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes expressed the importance of helping community centres through the pandemic.

"Our local community centres are hubs of activity for fitness and recreation, creativity, companionship and also provide the most basic needs to those who are vulnerable by providing access to food, clothing and shelter. It is vital that they are financially supported through COVID-19 so they remain in a position to help our residents who need it most. These centres also provide a place for generous volunteers to offer their time and skills to help others.

"I commend our Councillors for their unanimous decision to provide this financial assistance, which I am confident will go a long way to easing the impact of the pandemic."

If you are involved in the management of a local community group, please contact Council on 8555 7000 for more information.