



FReeZA Funding Successful

South Gippsland Shire Council will implement a three year FReeZA program 'Made in South Gippsland' after receiving \$73,500 in State Government funding.

FReeZA offers young people the opportunity to be part of a committee that plans and delivers music and cultural events to people aged between 12 and 25 in their local area.

Committee members will plan, create and deliver these events with the support of South Gippsland Shire Council, community mentors and organisations.

FReeZa committee groups will be established in Leongatha, Korumburra, Foster and Mirboo North.

Each committee will provide at least one event each year in their region and combine to provide one regional event per year.

UnitingCare Gippsland has delivered the project in South Gippsland for the last six years.

Council's Community Strengthening Support Officer Sophie Dixon said FReeZA is a unique way for young people to control the types of events held for youth in their local area.

"Being part of FReeZA gives young people the opportunity to build confidence in event planning and delivery. FReeZA develops professional relationships and explores employment pathways in the entertainment and event management industries.

"FReeZA provides important performance opportunities for local musicians and emerging artists to showcase their talents through state-wide competitions such as the annual FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands.

"Popular local music festivals Hills Are Alive and Unify have been organised by individuals who were previously part of Council's FReeZA program, making the experience a step into their future career," said Ms Dixon.

Individuals aged between 12 and 25 wanting to be part of FReeZa in South Gippsland can contact Sophie Dixon on 5662 9200 or Sophie.Dixon@southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

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For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953
communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au