



Funding Granted for Girls Own Space

South Gippsland Shire Council will be teaming up with local artists to promote gender equality in the community thanks to a VicHealth Gender Equality in the Arts grant.

The Girls Own Space project aims to tackle harmful gender stereotypes and start a conversation about equality by claiming a space in the towns of Korumburra, Leongatha, Foster and Mirboo North to become safe and inclusive through the vehicle of art.

In each town, a peer network of young women (15 to 30 years) of all abilities will be established to work with Council staff, professional artists, artist mentors and local community members to activate a public place where they would like to feel more safe, secure and welcome.

Girls Own Space is one of seven arts projects across the state and the only rural project funded under the \$630,000 Gender Equity and the Arts program which gives a voice to the experiences of women in our community and how we can push for change together.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Access and Inclusion Officer Alisha Gilliland was proud to work with cutting-edge local artists to push for real change on gender equality.

"We're excited to partner with brilliant local artists to help our community think differently about gender and how we can create a more equal and fair society where everyone can take part regardless of their gender.

"We acknowledge that this important work wouldn't be possible VicHealth's support. We are keen to contribute to the evidence base for what works in improving gender inequality and preventing violence against women and girls," said Ms Gilliland.

VicHealth Acting CEO Dr Lyn Roberts said it was important that women were empowered to have a voice and claim their space in the community.

"The evidence tells us that greater gender equality in our communities means safer environments for women and healthier communities for us all. We're really looking forward to seeing how Girls Own Space will bring South Gippsland locals together in forging a more equal and inclusive path to gender equality," said Dr Roberts.

For more information on Girls Own Space please contact Council's Community Strengthening team on 5662 9200.

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