

## Girls Own Space

Young women in South Gippsland are being encouraged to claim their own space by transforming public areas into inclusive and safe places using art. The project is possible due to a \$85,000 Gender Equity Arts grant from VicHealth.

Girls Own Space involves identifying locations in Korumburra, Mirboo North, Foster and Leongatha that can be made more welcoming for young women. Each project will be led by one or more local professional artists or designers and young women aged 15 – 28, of all abilities, are encouraged to get involved.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Art Development Officer Mary Sullivan is excited to see the project take shape.

“South Gippsland is one of only seven councils from across Victoria to have received funding from VicHealth to deliver a Gender Equity Arts project and the only rural council. We are really excited about Girls Own Space happening in our shire as it provides a rare opportunity for young women to experience a locally-based contemporary art project.

“Each project has a budget for materials so you will be able to actually make your mark in the place that you live,” said Ms. Sullivan.

The Girls Own Place project is free for all participants. You just need to bring yourself and allocate two to four hours a week for around eight to ten weeks. A meet the artist session will be held in December and the project will roll out during Term 1, 2020.

If you would like to participate, please send a brief email outlining why you would like to be involved to [girlsownspace@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:girlsownspace@southgippsland.vic.gov.au). You don't need to have a creative background to apply – you just need to bring yourself and your enthusiasm. For more information, please contact Mary Sullivan on 5662 9200.

**PR2467 23/10/19**