

# media release

Outback Communities Authority Media Release. 2 September 2011

## New grant program to support outback communities

The Outback Communities Authority (OCA) today highlighted its commitment to strengthening remote and regional communities and improving the quality of life of residents, with the launch of a new program of grants for outback projects.

OCA Chair Bill McIntosh says the program provides funding of up to \$10,000 for each grant to assist eligible incorporated bodies to finance a range of projects aimed at supporting communities across outback South Australia.

"The OCA is committed to supporting new and innovative projects that in turn support outback people and add to the unique quality of life outback people enjoy," Mr McIntosh said.

"This funding could assist organisations to upgrade or establish community facilities, provide training support for volunteers, or purchase equipment, materials or resources such as white goods, playground equipment or sporting equipment."

The funding is part of the OCA's new outback grants program, developed in response to a review into how the OCA distributes its funds, which was initiated when the OCA succeeded the Outback Areas Community Development Trust on 1 July 2010.

The OCA project grants program provides one-off funding to a limit of \$10,000, with most grants allocated in smaller project amounts of less than \$5,000. It will be available to incorporated bodies with an Australian Business Number (ABN) operating within the OCA's jurisdiction.

"It is important to recognise the great work of the Outback Areas Community Development Trust with more than 30 years of support for outback communities," Mr McIntosh said.

"This new project grants program honours this heritage and builds upon it by encouraging the development of broader outback community projects."

The OCA will conduct two calls of the project grants program each year, in August and February.

Calls for the first round of grants from the program opens 31 August and closes Friday 23 September 2011 at 5pm. Guidelines and application forms can be found online at: [www.oca.sa.gov.au](http://www.oca.sa.gov.au) or through email by contacting the OCA on 1800 640 542.

*The OCA is a statutory authority responsible for local governance in the South Australian Outback, where there are more than 30 Outback communities and numerous grazing and farming properties not serviced by local councils. For a full list of the communities it supports, please visit the OCA website.*



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