

Parkestone Foundation Grant Acquittal 2020-21 Report

Recipient: Copper Coast Gay Straight Alliance (subsidiary of SOS Copper Coast Suicide Prevention Network)

Amount received: \$436

The project: To produce two matching tear-drop rainbow banners for the Copper Coast Gay Straight Alliance and the Port Pirie LGBTIQ+ Community groups to be used in a collaborative regional event.



The Copper Coast GSA and Port Pirie LGBTIQ+ Community Group were collaborating to hold an LGBTIQ+ regional 'Picnic in the Park' on November 29 2020. The event was to feature SA gay icon 'HANS'.

Unfortunately, a COVID lockdown resulted in all events in SA being cancelled – at 12 days' notice for us. We were working to improve the support to LGBTIQ+ youth and adults in our region. It was to be the first of numerous strategies to assist LGBTIQ+ people to build resilience and acceptance of diversity in the Yorke and Mid-North regional and rural communities.

We believe that 'strength in numbers' will reinforce to our peers, youth in particular, that they are not alone. Promotion of the picnic extended to all towns within a one-hour drive, including Pt Augusta, Clare and all towns in between.

The plan was to establish networking amongst groups and individuals that will support and lead to an increased pride and resilience in our at-risk members of the community. To also acknowledge and accept diversity in society and an awareness of support structures that are being already in place.

Our project had the following objectives

- foster individual and community LGBTIQ+ pride
- promote societal acceptance of LGBTIQ+ people
- promote awareness of issues of importance to LGBTIQ+ people
- inform LGBTIQ+ people about community-based groups and organisations

Although the pennants have been used for individual activities in both regions, they will get their paired debut on stage at the regional 'Picnic in the Park' on November 28 this year (2021). Presuming no COVID upsets, the whole event, including HANS, is on track for a second attempt this year!

Once again, both groups would like to say a big thank you to the Parkestone Foundation for providing us with this grant. The banners should see many years of activities!

David Boots

Chair SOS Copper Coast SPN and Copper Coast Gay Straight Alliance

