Community Support Fund

Final report outcomes summary

Program contents

[Community Commitments: Regional Development Victoria 1](#_Toc515354240)

[Community Strengthening through Men’s sheds 2](#_Toc515354241)

[Community Renewal 3](#_Toc515354242)

[Imagination Unlimited 4](#_Toc515354243)

## Community Commitments: Regional Development Victoria

The implementation of the Community Commitments initiative was managed by Regional Development Victoria. This initiative supported an eclectic range of community development and other rural and regional development projects throughout Victoria, each project with its own defined objectives and performance measures. The funding has enabled community organisations to improve or build new community infrastructure and either expand or introduce new programs, activities and events which benefit communities.

The benefits of the program include a wide range of improved and new community infrastructure and equipment for four local councils and 19 community organisations across Victoria. For example, the provision of youth disability support and a training café (Bairnsdale Youth Community Hub), new facilities for the Torquay RSL and Bowling Club, and a number of improvements and upgrades to community halls and club rooms across Victoria.

|  |
| --- |
| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources |

## Community Strengthening through Men’s sheds

The Community Strengthening through the Men’s Sheds initiative supported the construction of men’s shed facilities across Victoria to improve the health and well-being of older men and increase their access to life-long learning opportunities.

Through capacity building, planning and infrastructure grants to not-for-profit organisations and local councils, this initiative established sustainable community based men’s sheds, supported by community partnerships at the local level in places of high need. For example, funds were used to:

* construct a new building for a men’s shed program;
* modify an existing building to allow the establishment of a new men’s shed program;
* redevelop a building so that a men’s shed program could become a co-located element of a multipurpose facility or hub for the community; and
* redevelop leased premises where there was a substantial lease available.

A total of fifty-one men’s sheds were constructed with priority given to applicants with community building initiatives in bushfire affected areas, and, community and neighbourhood renewal sites.

|  |
| --- |
| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services. |

## Community Renewal

The Community Renewal initiative brought residents, business, government and local organisations together to transform their community into a place of opportunity and activity via:

* community participation in decision making;
* new job and learning opportunities;
* increased neighbourhood volunteering and other support;
* upgraded community facilities and open spaces;
* greater participation in cultural, recreational and sporting activities; and
* improved feelings of safety and well-being.

Funding was provided to the following eight renewal sites:

* Hampton Park;
* Whittington;
* Frankston North;
* Laverton;
* Craigieburn;
* Chelsea;
* Bayswater North; and
* Rosebud West.

Within this context, local government authorities were provided with base funding to employ a local Place Manager and project officer at each site. The Place Managers engaged with the community and key partners to identify priorities through the development and implementation of a local action plan. Each Community Renewal site was overseen by a local Steering Committee which was required to bring local vision together into an action plan which was revised annually. Flexible funding was provided to support implementation of local action plans including large community infrastructure developments and community engagement activities.

|  |
| --- |
| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services. |

## Imagination Unlimited

Significant challenges exist to participation in the arts for Victorians who are culturally and linguistically diverse; live in regional or outer-metropolitan areas; are young or older; and/or experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Imagination Unlimited has been highly effective in providing broad access to creative participation, particularly for Victorians facing barriers to engaging in arts and cultural experiences. An evaluation found that Imagination Unlimited delivered:

* high levels of creative engagement with communities that experience barriers to participating in cultural life leading to increased confidence, pride, enjoyment, skills, networks and opportunities. Examples include: year 5 students working with professional poets to write their own poetry and perform for family and friends, and, members of the deaf and blind communities working with filmmakers to create films that express their world views;
* high participation rates of volunteers leading to increased skills, stronger social connections and community resilience;
* training for 723 people and 303 organisations in digitizing cultural collections and improving accessibility of their collections for the general public;
* increased community access to arts and cultural opportunities in regional and outer-metropolitan areas;
* employment opportunities for at least 740 artists; and
* new collaborations across community groups, professional artists, arts organisations, schools, major cultural agencies and Victorian Government departments enabling sharing resources, expertise and often facilitating relationships and support extending beyond the original projects.

|  |
| --- |
| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. |