

MEDIA RELEASE

Community Shade Grants Program

Australia has the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of seventy. However, skin cancer is a largely preventable disease and the provision of well planned, quality shade is an important strategy in reducing ultraviolet (UV) over-exposure. The \$10m Community Shade Grants Program will increase the availability of shade in public places.

Applications for the grants are open to a range of community based organisations including sports clubs, local councils, not for profit organisations and other community groups. These grants will fund new built shade, purchase of portable shade, planting of natural shade and repair of existing shade.

Buloke shire Council will be submitting an application for shade at Donald, Watchem, Birchip and Sea Lake pools. However there is still a great opportunity for all community groups to look at improving shade in public spaces. A real benefit of this grants program is that there is no need for a matching contribution so local community groups are encouraged to get started by obtaining quotes for any shade solutions they may be seeking to fund. Buloke Shire Council is happy to work with groups in identifying projects, particularly for projects on Council owned land. The funding guidelines are available at <http://health.vic.gov.au/community-shade-grants/> and groups seeking assistance can contact Coordinator Community Facilities Paul Fernee on 1300520520.



End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520

