

Bushfire fund gives \$90,000 to local health programs

Bendigo, Tuesday, 22 December 2009:

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's philanthropic arm, Community Enterprise Foundation™ will provide more than \$90,000 in funding for two vital health projects assisting in the bushfire recovery process.

Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) will receive two grants from the foundation; one to establish a bushfire health and wellbeing program for children and another building on previous funding for a health and wellbeing program for adults.

Kaye Graves, General Manager, Healthy Communities at Bendigo Community Health Services, said more than 500 Bendigo and Redesdale residents were affected by the bushfires.

"Those affected by bushfires are sometimes unaware of the physical and emotional impact disaster can have on their health.

"The adult health assessment and health coaching program was piloted earlier this year and aimed to identify health issues and assist in addressing them to improve their general health and wellbeing.

"In addition to this BCHS realises that the health of children recovering from bushfire is a priority and is developing children's program address this need. "

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Head of Community Strengthening, Collin Brady, said the Community Enterprise Foundation™ will provide \$63,250 to BCHS to establish and a children's bushfire health program and a further \$27,241 towards continuing the adult service.

"Bendigo and Adelaide Bank understands that comprehensive health programs such as these are critical in addressing the needs of our community.

"This allows individuals to take steps to improve their physical and mental wellbeing following the devastating events of Black Saturday."

The programs are expected to begin early in the New Year. For further information contact Bendigo Community Health Service on 5430 0500.

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