

Brisbane organisations to receive over \$7.7 million in infrastructure funding

Brisbane will take a share in the first round of the **National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF)** - the Australian Government's new \$1 billion infrastructure funding program - with over **\$7.7 million** awarded to two local projects which provide jobs for disabled workers, and support seriously ill children and their families visiting from regional areas.

The projects were amongst 51 successful applications from around the nation announced by Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Assistant Regional Development Minister Jamie Briggs this week (including seven in Queensland), with a total of \$212 million awarded to support growth in Australia's regions.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Brisbane Chair Shane Fracchia said the two Brisbane projects approved for funding will assist both the local and broader regional communities:

- **Help Enterprises** - \$2.475 million towards the construction of a new supply chain services logistics centre in Acacia Ridge which will provide 95 jobs, the majority for people with a disability
- **Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland Inc** – \$5.3 million towards the construction of a new Ronald McDonald House in South Brisbane, with 112 accommodation rooms, communal spaces, outdoor recreation and play areas, and onsite parking.

Mr Fracchia said RDA Brisbane's role in NSRF is to guide local organisations in developing quality proposals which will address local infrastructure needs and deliver a lasting economic benefit.

"Including co-funding, these two projects represent a substantial injection of \$44 million into the community.

"And both of these projects will not only create local jobs, they will also provide economic and social benefits which extend far beyond the Brisbane region," he said.

Help Enterprises' General Manager of Manufacturing and Supply Chain Services Denver Fresser said they were "ecstatic" that the Government had agreed to match them dollar for dollar on a new supply chain services logistics centre.

"This will bring about real social and economic outcomes for decades to come, not just for the people who live with disabilities that will be employed at the centre, but for the entire local community as a whole," he said.

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland CEO Christopher Macaulay said the awarding of the National Stronger Regions Fund was a major milestone for the organisation as well as a win for rural and regional communities.

“Upon completion in 2016, the new \$34 million facility will support rural and regional families with children at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital and the Mater Mothers’ Hospital,” said Mr Macaulay.

“Last year alone we accommodated almost 2,000 families at our existing two Houses in Brisbane.”

Round Two of the National Stronger Regions Fund opened today (**May 15**) and will close on **July 31**, with not-for-profit organisations and local government eligible to apply for dollar-for-dollar grants of between \$20,000 and \$10 million.

Funds can be used for the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade, extension or enhancement of existing infrastructure.

The Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development is conducting an information session for prospective applicants in Brisbane on **18 May**.

Details can be found on the RDA Brisbane website at www.rdabrisbane.org.au

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