

Media Release

SMALL GRANTS, BIG ISSUES

11 July 2013: A comic book that highlights the dangers of alcohol misuse is being developed by Spirit Dreaming with assistance from young Aboriginal people in Lismore, New South Wales. This is one of ten projects being funded by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE).

Totalling \$193,713 FARE's 2013 Good Practice Grants awarded up to \$20,000 to community organisations throughout Australia to strengthen their capacity to respond to alcohol-related harms.

The grants aim to foster innovation and encourage community organisations to develop new products or systems that can be used by alcohol and other drug agencies throughout Australia.

FARE Chief Executive Michael Thorn said it is encouraging to see so many new and innovative ideas being developed in the fight against alcohol.

"I am truly pleased to see such a diverse range of community organisations and tactics being implemented to raise the awareness of alcohol-related harms in Australia, all with the ultimate goal of changing our drinking culture", Mr Thorn said.

The Spirit Dreaming project in Lismore is one of five projects aimed at reducing harmful drinking among young people. Alcohol is a major cause of death and hospitalisation for young Australians aged 15 to 24, accounting for 5 deaths and 213 hospitalisations each week.

Mr Thorn says alcohol harms are extensive and increasing across Australia.

"Alcohol impacts negatively on too many lives. We need to be working together as a community to reduce this harm, and community projects such as these go some way towards achieving this goal", Mr Thorn said.

Other projects funded include a toolkit being developed by Lives Lived Well in Queensland to address young people's drinking and a film and community forum project at Tennant Creek, Northern Territory which uses puppets to inform and educate Indigenous Australians about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).

FARE has a strong partnership with community organisations and has supported hundreds of community projects since its establishment in 2001.

Mr Thorn believes community grants are an efficient and effective way to give much needed resources to community organisations.

“These grants get important community projects off the ground where they can start providing individuals with real support, and once proven these solutions can then be embraced by other organisations around Australia”, Mr Thorn said.

Project Name	Grants	Brief Description
Mission Australia, NSW	\$19,000	Create a comprehensive Dialectical Behaviour Theory (DBT) group program for young people with drug and alcohol issues.
Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, NT	\$20,000	A film and community forum project at Tennant Creek using puppets to inform and educate Aboriginal Australians about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).
BoysTown, QLD	\$19,677	Develop an alcohol harm minimisation information program for young people who access BoysTown services experiencing or at risk of harm from alcohol.
University of Sydney Drug Health, NSW	\$19,550	Develop and evaluate a safe and effective model of outpatient alcohol withdrawal management for Aboriginal Australians.
Lives Lived Well, QLD	\$19,986	Work with parents and families in Gladstone to support them in making informed healthy choices and assist in reducing the number of young people engaging in harmful drinking behaviours.
Spirit Dreaming, NSW	\$20,000	Produce three comic-style books and an interactive website that focus on how young Aboriginals and/or their families have been affected by alcohol.
Mercy Services, NSW	\$20,000	Develop a readily accessible “best practice” practical toolkit for engaging with African refugees.
Injury Control Council of Western Australia, WA	\$20,000	Work with the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research to establish a network for FASD peer educators.
Byron Youth, NSW	\$20,000	‘Cringe the Binge’ community action packs that provide resources and supportive materials for local community-based action on reducing alcohol-related harms amongst young people.
Drug Arm, QLD	\$15,500	Develop a community alcohol management strategy for the Boggabilla and Toomelah region.

More detailed information regarding individual grant projects will be released in coming weeks.

Michael Thorn is available for interview.

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Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) FARE is an independent, charitable organisation working to prevent the harmful use of alcohol in Australia. Since 2001, FARE has invested over \$115 million in research and community projects to minimise the impact of alcohol misuse on Australians. Through its national grants program and commissioned research, FARE has established itself as a leading voice on alcohol and other drugs issues. FARE works with community groups, all levels of government, police, emergency workers, research institutions and the private sector to address alcohol-related problems. For further information visit FARE’s website: www.fare.org.au