



**Media Release – May 2, 2020**

# Inaugural Esperance Ag Fund grant recipients announced

Two reputable Esperance not for profit organisations last month received a total of \$70,900 in grant funding from the recently established Esperance Ag Fund.

Esperance Care Services (ECS) received \$50,000 to support a full-time advocacy & support position for Esperance community residents in need, and Esperance Community Arts received \$20,900 to support the Esperance Wildflower Festival.

Esperance Ag Fund Chairman, and Cascade farmer Greg Curnow said it was exciting to be able to release the first year's grants and announce the worthy recipients and he thanked his farming community for their contributions.

"The Fund was established last year to make an indelible difference within our Esperance community," Mr Curnow said.

"Through donations from the local agriculture sector, we can provide funding to projects that make a positive impact. This is all about farmers supporting the Esperance community, investing in opportunities that make Esperance a place anyone would want to live and thrive."

The full-time ECS position will better help individuals and families requiring assistance to work through matters of concern for those most vulnerable in society.

ECS Advocacy and Support Worker, Andrea Kenneally said the funding would make a huge difference to many people struggling in the community.

"As a result of the generosity of the Esperance farming community fund, we can expect to see lives changed," she said.

"This position is to build capacity and confidence toward purposeful and hopeful futures for vulnerable individuals and their families."

Over many years ECS have provided a range of services, including advocacy and support to people in crisis, seeking assistance to address their specific issues and concerns.

Volunteer burnout is always an issue for any community volunteer organisation. Therefore, the funding to Esperance Community Arts will be used to reduce volunteer burden and stress associated

# ESPERANCE AG FUND

Agriculture Investing in the Esperance Community

with running the successful annual Esperance Wildflower Festival, this year scheduled for the week of 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

The grant will be used to: employ an event coordinator; purchase materials for a community sculpture project; and to cover costs associated with a professional artist and a botanist who will run free workshops for community members during the festival.

If you would like to donate to the Esperance Ag Fund, or are interested in future funding opportunities, you can visit [www.esperanceagfund.com](http://www.esperanceagfund.com).

***For media enquiries, please contact:***

Niki Curtis – M: 0427 806 702 or E: [nicolejohnson@westnet.com.au](mailto:nicolejohnson@westnet.com.au)

Tara Vermeersch – M: 0404 845 435 or E: [tara@belairaq.com.au](mailto:tara@belairaq.com.au)

**PIC**