



MEDIA RELEASE

Pass the Parcel – a new approach to energy efficiency

More than 500 homes in Southern Grampians and Glenelg Shires are more energy efficient as a result of the Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) 'Pass the Parcel' project. The project was designed to assist low income households be more energy efficient and Project Manager Jo Brown is delighted with the results.

Having just returned from the National Rural Health Conference in Adelaide where she presented the project and outcomes, Jo said "It was a great opportunity to showcase such a successful project at a National event. To be able to put our region on the map as a leader in this field, was great.

SGGPCP has been working with a number of communities across the two Shires, assisting them to adapt to climate change by increasing energy efficiency within the home. Over 500 people participated in the project, with many indicating that they had made some adjustments to improve energy efficiency within their home. "Having an energy efficiency home means that as energy prices rise you can still stay warm in winter and cool in summer by making some simple changes, our focus was on saving money but maintaining comfort. With price rises for energy costs, energy efficiency saves money and increases home comfort" Ms Brown said.

"Pass the Parcel" was just that – a parcel containing an ibutton, which is a temperature data logger that records the time and air temperature every 30 minutes, and other information regarding energy efficiency, was passed around in a community to involve as many people as possible. The ibutton was hung up in the home of each project participant, to record the temperature of the room. An ibutton was also placed outside to capture outside air temperature. After the ibutton was in a home for a week, the parcel along with the ibutton was passed onto a friend or neighbour. Participants received a graph of their own home temperature compared to outside temperature and the standard human comfort zone to increase their interest in energy efficiency.

Another important part of the project were the 25 community workshops that were held across the region, focussing on energy efficiency and comfort in the home. Participants were able to learn easy tips from experts to improve comfort and reduce energy costs.

Pass the Parcel has achieved some great outcomes including learning new and interesting ways to support households make easy changes to improve energy efficiency.

Picture: Jo Brown, Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership, Health and Well Being Manager