

# Project Overview: Rural People: Resilient Futures

## What?

Southern Grampians Shire Council (SGSC) has received funding through the State Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) through the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability (VAS) Partnership to facilitate an action research pilot project entitled Rural People: Resilient Futures. The project aims to understand vulnerability across the Southern Grampians Shire. A particular focus is on defining **who** is vulnerable, **what** they are vulnerable to, **how** this will vary in the future and what can be done to **manage** this varying vulnerability. Rural People: Resilient Futures is funded until May 2015.

## How?

Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) will lead the research project in partnership with RMIT University providing research direction and SGSC as funds recipient providing valuable community links.

**Phase 1:** entails RMIT reviewing the existing academic and grey literature to determine current understanding of vulnerability in this context, while SGGPCP will commence conversations with local stakeholders and community. This consultation will enable understanding of the local context and needs associated with vulnerability within the community.

Key community consultation questions are:

1. Tell me about the people you work with / live here?
2. What makes their day to day life difficult?
3. What makes their day to day life easy?
4. Are there people in your community who are currently “doing it tougher” than others? Why? (Explore / narrative)
5. Think about the heatwave in January this year: What did your community / clients do? How did they cope? Did they plan? What did you see happening? Did it affect some people more than others?
6. What could be done to make life easier?

**Phase 2:** aims to work more closely with stakeholders and the community to investigate the development of strategies to reduce existing and future vulnerability. By working with SGGPCP partners in the first instance, the most appropriate strategy for the community can be developed. This phase also aims to increase the ability of SGGPCP partners to deal with existing community vulnerability and how this will change in the future.

**Phase 3:** investigates opportunities for integration of vulnerability reduction strategies into existing and new mechanisms between SGSC, SGGPCP, its partners and the community. Extensive community and stakeholder consultation in this phase will ensure that the more effective means of integration is achieved.

**Phase 4:** endeavours to provide ongoing feedback about findings and learnings of the project to stakeholders, the community, other councils, research institutions and government. Although this will be ongoing throughout the project, a dedicated phase ensures extensive information sharing.

## Contacts:

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