



For immediate release
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Wallarrah 2 grant ensures all Wyong Shire students have access to technology

The Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre, as part of the Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre Association, will be able to provide essential academic and life skills support to at risk children in the Wyong Shire thanks to a grant from the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation.

The grant will enable the Centre to purchase four iPads and a printer, allowing them to provide young people with better access to the digital world, as many of the youth who utilise the Centre do not have the internet or computers at home as they come from financially disadvantage families.

“We have established a need to provide Academic and Life Skills mentoring to local young people, with the focus on improving their chances of staying in school and helping them to develop important life skills,” said Kate Bowden, Program Coordinator for Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre Association.

“Several of the young people we are targeting are at risk of disengaging from school, with many of them suffering from learning difficulties or disabilities such as Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. They are also often from families with drug or alcohol issues and mental health issues.

“We realise that we can’t solve all of their problems, but if we can provide early intervention through mentoring and support it may have enough of an effect on the young people to help break the cycle of welfare dependence,” added Kate.

In addition to the provision of iPads and a printer to help students with their school projects, study and resumes, Wallarah 2 has also provided funding for healthy afternoon snacks.

“Many of the young people we see arrive extremely hungry and we feel it necessary to provide sustenance to aid concentration.

“We are extremely grateful to Wallarah 2 for their generous support. This grant will go a long way in helping us to support at risk young people in our community,” said Kate.

Kenny Barry, Project Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, “The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation is proud to be supporting the Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre Association and in particular, the Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre as it continues to provide invaluable academic and social assistance to the young people in our local area.”

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed, with 14 grants presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong local government area. For further information please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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