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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

Finalisation of the first round of TSRA Common Funding for 2014 has been completed, with financial support given to Indigenous broadcasting, Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and health and safety initiatives throughout the Torres Strait region.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said 51 applications had been received for the grants of which 29 were funded for a total of \$2.2 million under various TSRA programme areas.

“Nine grant applications were approved for PBC capacity building. The Torres Strait Islanders Media Association received funding for operations and RIBS facility upgrades across six communities,” Mr Elu said.

“Funding support was also spread out over a range of important local community organisations and initiatives that promote health, safety and the conservation of island culture and heritage.

“These include programmes such as the Strait Smile dental care education program, the Ripple Effect youth empowerment programme, and workshops to promote the recycling of ghost nets.”

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council received \$21,000 for the Strait Smile initiative and Shadow Fitness programme while the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association was provided with \$325,000 in subsidies to support local sporting and healthy lifestyle recreation activities across the region.

A total of \$434,000 was given to the Port Kennedy Association to support their annual operating costs and also to implement the Torres Strait Regional Service Hub and better deliver social support services to the Torres Strait region. The Mura Kosker Sorority received \$424,000 for social support services.

Over \$150,000 in culture, art and heritage related grants were approved. These will support cultural celebrations on Boigu, cultural exchange tours, photography of the islands, the Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival, materials for dance teams and jewellery making, promotion of the art centres, and ghost netting workshops on Hammond Island.

The next TSRA Common Funding Round will be open between 4 September and 7 October 2014 to provide funding for activities taking place between 1 January and 31 July 2015.

For more information about TSRA grants see the web site www.tsra.gov.au or contact the TSRA on 07 4069 0700.

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