



Media Release

Financial wellbeing course for women in Gippsland

9 March 2021

A free financial literacy course delivered by women for women could not have come at a better time given the current COVID-19 economic climate.

Learn Local providers are delivering the Financial Wellbeing for Women course next month in the communities of Foster, Paynesville, Bairnsdale and Sale

The unique course, developed by the Skilled, Aware, Resourceful, Active (SARA) program from the Women's Information Referral Exchange (WIRE) and funded by the Department of Education, covers a range of topics and supports women to learn useful tips about managing their money and setting realistic goals to assist with greater financial wellbeing.

Learn Local Project Worker, Christine Brooks, said the women only course would be delivered in a safe and relaxed environment over a 10 week period.

"The course is particularly timely as we know there is increased financial stress for many people with a reduction in the COVID-19 income supplements and Job Keeper payments due to end this month," Ms Brooks explained.

"One of the strengths of the course is that a Learn Local environment is relaxed, informal and very supportive, and with small class numbers women are able to connect with each other. We want this to be accessible to everyone and childcare is available if required."

Topics of the Financial Wellbeing for Women course include;

- Where to go for interest free loans
- Meeting the costs of schooling
- How to find the most cost-effective deals on your utilities
- Managing debts
- Connecting participants with a Financial Counsellor

"Manna Gum Community House in Foster participated in the pilot of this course in 2019," Ms Brooks said.

"The previous participants gained so much from the course, with a vast amount of information available to build confidence and knowledge around managing their money. We are very excited to now be able to offer the course throughout Gippsland."



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Bookings and enquiries can be made through the following Learn Local provider in your area;

- Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre (PNC); email manager@pnc.vic.edu.au / phone 5156 0214 Monday to Friday.
- Heyfield Community Resource Centre; email coordinator@heyfield.net / phone 5148 2100 Monday to Thursday.
- Manna Gum Community House; email mannagum@dcsi.net.au phone 0439 872 883.

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For more information and interviews contact Tracy VanderZalm at Wordwise Communications on 0447491345.