

LENSWOOD'S BUDDING LEADER



Lenswood-based sales agronomist and 2022 LEAD scholarship recipient Georgia Griggs believes education is key to building a thriving agriculture industry.

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After moving to the Hills last year, Ms Griggs started working with Lenswood business E.E. Muir where she assisted local producers with the complexities of managing crops with products, including chemicals and fertilisers.

She said that she noticed opportunities for women to embrace the local agriculture industry in the region and wanted to find new ways to support farmers by furthering her skills and introducing the industry to a new generation of leaders.

"You sort of hear about women in male dominated fields sometimes not getting the same opportunities as their counterparts so I figured it wouldn't hurt to give it a crack," she said.

"I want to facilitate real change in this industry and the program provides me

with a unique opportunity to do so."

As part of her application, Ms Griggs said she was asked to convey an idea that contributed to the National Farmers Federation's 2030 Roadmap – which aims to inject \$100 billion into the industry by 2030.

She said growing up on a fruit farm in the Huon Valley in Tasmania made her realise the disconnect between producer and consumer, and that reconnecting them would bring much needed change to the industry.

She developed an idea around that principle.

"I've always thought that there's more room for education, in agriculture within schooling, because even though I grew up regionally, I still went to school with kids who didn't really know where their food was coming from," she said.

"I've always had the idea in the back of my head that there was probably room for that and I think the scholarship program gives me an opportunity to sort of start bringing that to light myself."

Ms Griggs said she hoped the scholarship would allow her to shine a light on the industry so that consumers would support it instead of simply looking for a bargain at the supermarket.

"I think there needs to be more awareness about the fact that it is quite cheap in the supermarket and consumers sort of take that for granted a little bit sometimes," she said.

"More programs like this LEAD program are a start and then informing people in schools that it's not just about tractors and sheep and things like that anymore."

Adult mental health facility earmarked for Mt Barker

LOUIS MAYFIELD

An adult mental health centre will be established at Mt Barker as part of a four-year, \$14m investment by the Federal Government.

The Head to Health centre will be part of the Government's \$3 billion National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan aimed at delivering landmark reform of the

country's mental health system. It will be a standalone mental health service which provides short and medium term mental health treatment for those in distress or with moderate to severe mental illness.

SA Senator Andrew McLachlan said Head to Health centres were designed to provide a "welcoming, caring and respectful" space for adults to access mental health information, services and supports.

"I encourage people who are worried about their own or a loved one's mental health to visit this centre, you don't have to go it alone," he said.

"The services are free and referrals can also be made for more intensive mental health care or social supports if needed."

Liberal candidate for Mayo Allison Bluck said the funding was a win for the residents of Mt Barker and the greater Mayo region.

"This service will ensure

that the people of Mayo have greater and easier access to essential mental health services," she said.

"I am very pleased that the Federal Government continues to invest in our region and support key projects such as this which truly improve the lives of those living in our communities."

The centre will be established and operated by the Country SA Primary Health Network (PHN).