

Course shows leadership comes in many forms

LOUIS MAYFIELD

Former Alexandrina Council employee Jessica Harris said participating in a leadership program delivered by Regional Development Australia Hills, Fleurieu and KI (RDAHFKI) was an opportunity to become more “assertive” as a leader.

“I am not very assertive, so doing something like this is getting me out of my comfort zone,” she said.

“When I got asked to do this I thought I better challenge myself and say ‘yes’.”

“Love and kindness” were identified as some of Ms Harris’ strengths during the Inspired Leadership program, funded through the State Government’s Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP).

Ms Harris applied for the program, which offers courses focused on training in governance, financial accounting, strategic and project planning, marketing and managing volunteers, while she was working closely with the RDA during her role with the Alexandrina Council.

Now living at Mt Barker, Ms Harris is employed as an economic development manager for the Unley Council and said the program helped her learn that “anyone can be

a leader. It doesn’t have to be (someone) in a chief executive position,” she said.

“Leaders look different and have different attributes that they use for their leadership type, and I’ve been able to apply that in my life in work, family and friendship groups.”

Having completed the program, Ms Harris plans to keep in touch with the other members.

“I’m really excited to see how we progress in the future, even though the program has finished for us, I can see that we’re going to continue to stay connected,” she said.

Last week the State Government announced that \$2m would be committed to extend the RDLDP until 2025, allowing RDAHFKI to continue offering the Inspired Leadership program.

RDAHFKI director of regional development Steve Shotton said the funding allowed the not-for-profit to continue empowering regional leaders and building a robust leadership pool.

“Many aspiring, rising and established leaders are devoted to their communities and don’t have the capacity to travel and commit time to train in Adelaide,” he said.

“The opportunity this funding extension provides ... will certainly be a positive for the region as a whole.”



Former Alexandrina Council staff member Jessica Harris recently participated in the RDA Hills Fleurieu and KI’s Inspired Leadership program.