

Inspired Leadership participants recently at Port Elliot. Photo: Evan Bailey



RDA program gets funding extension

An additional \$2 million in funding has been allocated by the State Government to extend a highly successful program fostering future leaders in regional South Australia.

The Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP) was established in 2022 and designed to empower a broader cohort of leaders from regional communities, including recent graduate Tiahni Adamson, who was named 2024 Young South Australian of the Year and is now a nominee for 2024 Young Australian of the Year.

The program is delivered through South Australia's Regional Development Australia boards (RDAs) and is facilitated in each region to fill the identified gaps in leadership training, enabling it to meet the specific needs of each regional community, while also reducing participant travel and increasing accessibility for previously under-represented leadership cohorts such as women, who made up 68 per cent of the program's participants.

"The Regional Leadership Development Program has demonstrated that it can reach a large and diverse group of emerging leaders from right across regional South Australia, and provide them with valuable skills relevant for their work in regional industries, businesses, and in community activities," Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven, said.

"Under the management of the RDA network, the popularity of the program in its first two years has been remarkable."

Regional Development South Australia Chair Rob Kerin was proud of how each RDA design their own program to suit the leadership development needs of their regions.

"Regional Development South Australia welcomes the minister's announcement of a two-year extension of the Regional Leadership Development Program," he said.

"It's important that a wide diversity of regional South Australians are given the practical training they need to effectively lead businesses, industries, and community organisations into the future.

"I'm sure that as the program develops, (the RDAs) will learn from each other's experiences and adapt their own course offerings accordingly."