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ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

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Funding Boost Extends RDA AHFKI Leadership Program 2 More Years

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Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) is thrilled to announce the extension of their Inspired Leadership program, following the State Government's allocation of an additional \$2 million to extend the highly successful Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP). The extension will ensure RDA AHFKI can build on the success of their inaugural 2023 Inspired Leadership program with funding now supporting the initiative until 2025.

Delivered by Newday Leadership, the transformative six-month program hosted 20 participants, aged between 19 and 64, from across the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island. Among the participants was Tiahni Adamson, 2024 Young South Australian of the Year and Young Australian of the Year nominee, who highlighted the program's holistic approach in incorporating First Nations wisdom, wellbeing practices and fostering leadership diversity.

"I think traditionally, leadership programs are built for a certain personality... it might be for the loudest person in the room or the most extroverted," Tiahni said, "whereas our program really centred that anyone is built to be a leader and that a variety of different leaders is a good thing."

The program's unique approach, incorporating monthly sessions in different locations across the region, has proven to be a model for contemporary leadership development. Steve Shotton, Director of Regional Development for RDA AHFKI, highlighted the impact of having a dedicated leadership program in the regions, saying,

“The Inspired Leadership program, delivered by Newday Leadership, built a culture of active citizenship and connection to place and local Indigenous culture. Quite simply, that can’t be delivered in a capital city.”

The extension of the RLDP funding has been gratefully received by RDA AHFKI, which will support their ongoing commitment to empower regional leaders and help build a robust leadership pool. The not-for-profit organisation also recognised the broader impact it will have on leadership opportunities in communities across South Australia and locally.

“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,” said Steve, suggesting ***“the opportunity this funding extension provides to build a regional alumni will certainly be a positive for the participants and the region as a whole.”***

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island is eager to continue its collaboration with Newday Leadership in welcoming a new cohort of aspiring and developing leaders. Expressions of interest for the 2024 Inspired Leadership Program are now open, and prospective participants are encouraged to send their enquiries to info@rdahc.com.au.

Media contact and for connection to Inspired Leadership participants:

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