

# News releases - Geoff Brock

## **\$900,000 grant assists new aged care facility in Berri**

Geoff Brock November 18, 2016

The Riverland community is set to benefit from a new state-of-the-art aged care facility in Berri, supported by a \$900,000 Regional Development Fund grant.

Mary MacKillop Care SA will undertake the \$16 million project to construct an aged care service specifically designed to enhance its residents' quality of life and care needs. The development will include a 50-bed residential facility.

The facility is focused on keeping elderly couples together and providing independence for single people, while maintaining links to residential and community care. It will also feature facilities for research and education.

The site will be one of the most modern and innovative in Australia, incorporating the latest in design, innovation, technology and care.

The project will create 47 ongoing full time jobs at the new facility in addition to over 200 jobs during construction.

### **Background**

Mary MacKillop Care is a mission focused, charitable organisation offering residential aged care, community care and disability services.

The Regional Development Fund (RDF) drives economic growth through grants to boost investment in regional infrastructure and the creation of jobs in South Australia.

According to independent analysis, projects awarded grants through Rounds 1 and 2 of the RDF created more than 2000 regional jobs and contributed about \$930 million to the SA economy in 2015-16.

In the Murray and Mallee RDF projects from Rounds 1 and 2 created around 550 jobs and contributed around \$200 million to the economy in 2015-16.

This project aligns with the State Government economic priority of 'A globally recognised leader in health research, ageing and related services and products'.

### **Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock**

The new Mary MacKillop facility will create significant economic, social and community outcomes focused on the needs of Berri, the Riverland and South Australia.

Combining care with education and training, this state-of-the-art facility will provide space for partnerships with health providers and to facilitate research in new approaches to aged care.

The purpose-built development is innovative, modern, and designed to provide the best possible care to residents.

**Quotes attributable to Mr Jim Birch, Chairman, Mary MacKillop Care SA**

We want our residents to remain engaged with and connected to their local community to the extent that they are able to, so that their lives are enriched while living with us.

With the support of the RDF we will be able to assist Riverland families to stay local.

One of the core objectives of this project is to provide facilities and training for young people, as well as the capacity to undertake research on living and 'quality of life' preferences for older people.

This will integrate the opportunities for youth employment and aged care into the region, and show that aged care can be innovative and exciting.