

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 15 November 2017



COORONG HEALTH INITIATIVES SOME OF NATION'S BEST

The Coorong District Council has once again shown its strength on the national stage, picking up a 'National Highly Commended Award' from the Australian Heart Foundation.

The accolade follows on from Coorong taking out the Foundation's State award back in September, for its work on improving the health of its community.

One of the initiatives highlighted by the judges was the Coorong Healthy Highways (CHH) program – the first of its kind in Australia.

CHH has partnered with more than 20 local businesses to create healthy menu items along its remote highways, and evaluation shows positive change for business outlets and the wider community.

The Council also led an *Active Recreation* project - a strategic infrastructure program driven by the former OPAL team, focused on developing recreation facilities in all townships.

Coorong District Council Mayor Neville Jaensch said the Council had come a long way in terms of how it approached community health.

"We know that a healthy community is a vibrant, strong community," Mayor Jaensch says.

"We want to build a district with opportunities for future generations, and part of this is ensuring families have access to unstructured physical activity and healthy food. Not only does this support our families living here already, but also create an environment to attract new people to the Coorong.

"These accolades from the Heart Foundation reiterate that we're on the right track.

"As one of the smallest Councils in the nation, we're batting well above our average in terms of innovation and community programs."

The award will be presented as part of the Local Government Association SA's (LGASA) Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, 16 November 2017. The Council will take home a cheque for \$2,000 for the award, which it will reinvest back in to community health programs.

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The win comes during a spectacular 12 months for the Council, which continues to scoop major national and state awards for a range of initiatives.

Key healthy initiatives, contributing to the National commendation include:

- Coorong Healthy Highways
- Coonalpyn 'Hoopinator' multisport facility
- Murray Coorong Trail
- Nature playground projects in Meningie, Peake, Sherlock and Tintinara
- Tintinara Disc Golf Park
- Mayor's pedometer challenge
- Coorong Suicide Prevention Network
- Portable resources include:
 - A mobile BMX/skate ramp
 - Imagination playground
 - Geocaching kits for community loan
 - Giant games, sports library, portable disc golf basket, giant fruit costumes and smoothie bike available for free community loan

- ENDS -

MEDIA PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

WHEN: Thursday 16 November 12.50pm
WHERE: Adelaide Oval – Ian McLachlan room
WHAT: Heart Foundation Local Government Award presentations at the 2017 Local Government Association Annual General Meeting
WHO : Coorong District Council, Mayor Neville Jaensch

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