

MEDIA RELEASE – February 21, 2018

GROW project claims IPAA Victoria award

The profound GROW program established by G21-Geelong Region Alliance and Give Where You Live Foundation to target disadvantage has won a prestigious Institute of Public Administration Australia award.

GROW – Geelong Region Opportunities for Work – was named winner of the policy development category at the IPAA Victoria awards at Deakin Edge on Melbourne’s Federation Square last night.

The award acknowledged the program’s growth and measured impact since its founding in 2016, with 70 local organisations having signed commitments to focus on local procurement and generation of jobs in areas of disadvantage.

At the close of 2017, the GROW project’s 9% growth equated to \$23.8 million in localised procurement and creation of 72 job opportunities.

IPAA CEO David Ali said the awards celebrated exemplary innovation and leadership in the public sector. He congratulated G21-Geelong Region Alliance and the Give Where You Live Foundation.

“Their excellent project ... pushed the boundaries and demonstrated what success in public administration looks like,” Mr Ali said.

“These awards are one of the few opportunities we have as a sector to acknowledge the ‘wins’ and the people who strive for excellence across our state.”

Give Where You Live Foundation CEO and G21 chair Bill Mithen, G21 CEO Elaine Carbines and GROW director Anne O’Brien and co-ordinator Liz Everist attended the awards ceremony along with Borough of Queenscliffe CEO Lenny Jenner and Centre for Social Impact social design fellow Ingrid Burkett.

The IPAA awards are open to all individuals and teams who work in commonwealth, state and local government and community sector organisations that deliver government services in Victoria.

Many government and department chiefs were present to recognise winners.

Mr Mithen said the award was significant endorsement of GROW’s progress and ongoing mission.

“We are so proud of GROW, our community’s response to GROW and particularly the difference that GROW is making,” Mr Mithen said.

“This IPAA award in the policy development category acknowledges the significant partnership between G21 and the Give Where You Live Foundation and the great and visionary work of our team.

“We continue to urge local businesses and organisations to become part of meaningful regional collective impact by signing the initiative compact and starting planning to help deliver social benefit.”

The annual IPAA Victoria Leadership in the Public Sector Awards recognise the achievements and practices of teams and individuals working in and with the Victorian public sector, acknowledging leadership and celebrating commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

IPAA Victoria president Gill Callister announced winners at the ceremony at Deakin Edge, Federation Square.

GROW won its category ahead of the Victorian Department of Education and Training’s Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan and VicRoads’ Motor Graduated Licensing System.

Key GROW achievements at the close of 2017 include:

- 70 organisations as signatories to the GROW compact;
- 10 compact action plans published, with 30 others in progress;
- A 9% shift to local procurement, equalling \$23.8 million based on 2015-16 data;
- Creation of 72 job opportunities including traineeships and apprenticeships in GROW signatory organisations and with GROW target organisations; and,
- Launch of a Regional Shared Measurement dashboard at GROW’s May Report Card event.

For further information visit <https://grow.g21.com.au/>

Media contacts:

Bill Mithen, Give Where You Live Foundation CEO & G21 Chair, (03) 5229 4364 or 0419 302 650
Elaine Carbines, G21 CEO, (03) 5227 4000 or 0437 202 300



GROW is a joint initiative of Give Where You Live Foundation and G21 - Geelong Region Alliance.

Give Where You Live Foundation acknowledge key GROW funding partners - Victoria State Government and Alcoa Foundation.

