



For immediate release
4 March 2016

Films4Change seek to educate Coast community about Domestic Violence

With approximately 22 cases of domestic violence reported in the Wyong Shire each week, one organisation is fighting to educate the local community to help change this shocking statistic.

With the support of the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation, Films4Change is developing a series of seven short films that will soon be made available to schools, support groups and other relevant community groups to create education and awareness around domestic violence issues.

Melinda Arnold from Films4Change says that the project aims to educate change in men's culture.

"There is currently an avoidance of responsibility amongst some of the male population in regard to domestic violence. Our aim for the films is to address behaviours in men that are abusive with a focus on the positive power of recovery, self-awareness, support and culture change," said Ms Arnold.

"It is our hope that the films will benefit the local community significantly and reduce the high incidence of domestic violence within the Wyong Shire," she added.

To support the production, which commenced last year, Wallarah 2 Community Foundation awarded Films4Change a \$3,000 grant, which helped to fund the purchase of equipment and production costs.

"Wallarrah 2's contribution to the project has made an incredible difference in completing the project. We are now up to the post-production stage and plan to launch the films in late March," said Ms Arnold.

"Throughout the project, we have been liaising with Relationships Australia NSW and they have made great contributions in regards to input for our films. They have definite plans to utilise these films for their Men's Behaviour Courses throughout 2016 and we are excited for other organisations to find similar use for these educational tools."

Peter Smith, Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "We are proud to support Films4Change in this important initiative that seeks to address some of the underlying issues regarding domestic violence."

"We look forward to seeing the seven completed films when they are launched in late March and are excited to see the positive change that they may bring to members of the Wyong Shire community," added Peter.

A total of 14 grants were awarded to community initiatives that benefit the Wyong Shire LGA as part of the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation 2015 grant process. The 2016 Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grants are now open. For further information, please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

-ENDS-

For more information, interviews or photos:
Katey Small | ksmall@brilliantlogic.com.au | 4324 6962 | 0422 639 093