

## **Be the Change**

Girl Guides Australia was successful in applying for funding to run a series of workshops and events focussed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As part of this funding, Girl Guides Australia undertook to:

1. Host a two-day national workshop for Guides aged 14 - 30 years.
2. Run a one and a half to two day workshop in each state or territory for Guides and community representatives aged 14 - 18 years.
3. Run individual projects aligned with one or more of the MDGs by each of the participants at the national workshop.

Under the funding agreement, the three components (national workshop, state workshops and 25 individual projects) must be completed by the end of September 2010.

### **National Workshop**

The national Be the Change workshop was held in Melbourne from 16 - 18 April. The workshop was attended by 25 Guides ranging aged from 14 - 30 years, plus steering committee members and Girl Guide facilitators. Attendance at this workshop was determined through a competitive application process and applicants were judged by a selection panel within their respective states/territory.

The workshop was held over two days and consisted of information sessions around advocacy and information about the MDGs.

Following this, Guides attended a number of breakout sessions to hear from external speakers already working in the MDG area including professionals from 1 Million Women, Unicef, Unifem and the Foundation for Young Australians. Breakout sessions from Deline Briscoe and Kayla Groombridge who are working on the MDGs in their local communities were also held.

The participants also had the opportunity to break into groups to begin planning their individual projects as well as their state-based workshops. Both of these sessions were facilitated by Steering Committee members and information was provided to assist the girls work through possible scenarios relating to their individual and/or state workshops.

### **Individual Projects**

Each participant has nominated an individual project which is aligned to one of the MDGs. They will undertake this project in their local communities and will continue to work together to share ideas during the implementation phase.

### **Mini Grants Program**

To assist the Guides in implementing their individual project, Girl Guides Australia has made available grants up a maximum of \$500. However, the funds are available through a competitive mini-grants application round.

### **State-based workshops**

Working in state-based groups, Guides were also asked to be scoping their state-based workshop including identifying two tentative dates when the event could be held, developing a meeting schedule to ensure the project continues on track, identifying possible external speakers and internal facilitators and nominating at least two preferred venues for the state workshops.

### **Future Communication**

Girl Guides Australia has set up a Facebook page so participants can communicate and motivate each other as they work through their individual projects and state-based workshops.