



## **Media Release**

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### **Bringing the community together through youth leadership in sustainability**

Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS) is a new initiative that helps young people understand the key issues of sustainability while gaining the knowledge and skills to become leaders in their chosen career. The objective is to help young people to not only understand the world around them, but to develop the ability to think for themselves, communicate their thoughts and feelings, act on their own beliefs and help others act in an ethical and socially responsible way.

This is a new and exciting initiative that is being piloted in a select number of regions in Victoria during 2009. The Co-Founders of the TLfS Program are training representatives from four local schools and a number of community groups in the Wimmera region to deliver the program in the context of local conditions and the local environment. The goal is to engage local students in meaningful and contextualised projects and to build community partnerships within the region.

Jane Stewart, one of the Co-Founders of the program says, "Our program is based on the latest research in leadership and sustainability principles. It is also based on a successful model from the USA that sees strong links between different sectors of the community in delivering vocational projects. Our vision is to use the Wimmera Pilot program as a model for engaging young people in sustainability in other rural communities around Australia."

The local LLEN is a keen supporter of the program and sees the value of linking vocational projects with issues of sustainability. Jo Devereaux, the Executive Officer of the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, says: "Our job is assist young people to make a successful transition into education, training, employment in the community and we believe the TLfS Program will enhance our current programs."

For more information about the Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability Program contact:

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