



ACT of Women Giving

## Media Release

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### Rural Girls Empowered with Capital Support

Act of Women Giving is the newest philanthropic initiative operating in the Nation's capital. This collective 'Giving Circle' was started by Canberran Lesley Harris, Act of Women Giving launched in January 2016.

Over the last seven months twenty Canberra women and one corporate donor have come together to collectively contribute over \$9000.

The women who form Act of Women Giving come from a range of backgrounds including lawyers and politicians, public servants and business owners, as well as retirees and entrepreneurs, and range in age from their 30s through to their 70s.

Regardless of their diversity, the one thing these women have in common is a desire to see change and improve outcomes for women and girls in the Canberra region.

Act of Women Giving will award their FIRST grant to the national not-for-profit 'Country to Canberra', at a grant giving ceremony on Friday September 2 from 5pm at ACTEWAGL Head Office in Canberra City.

Country to Canberra was founded in 2014 by Hannah Wandel and offers national initiatives that provide leadership opportunities to young, rural women.

The grant will fund Country to Canberra's latest program 'Project Empower' Leadership Workshops. This new pilot program will be delivered to Year 9 and 10 girls in rural ACT and NSW secondary schools, within a 200Km radius of Canberra. The program aims to build self-esteem, goal setting and leadership skills, as well as educate on gender equality.

Lesley reflects 'When I think back to this time last year, the idea to form a Giving Circle in Canberra was an idea! I am extremely proud of what we have achieved so far, and delighted to be involved in the funding of Project Empower. There is something special about bringing a group of women together to fund a project that supports other women. I am very much looking forward to the growth of ACT of Women Giving in terms of membership, which will translate into increased opportunities to provide grants to fund fantastic community initiatives such as this one'.

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