

Put your hand up to help Mallee

A NEW Northern Mallee Community Partnership initiative aimed at tackling the causes of social disadvantage in the region is seeking more members.

The Hands Up Mallee (HUM) project has formed a Community Leaders Table to better understand the community's aspirations.

Northern Mallee Community Partnership Chief Executive Officer, Cheree Jukes, is excited about the community engagement phase of the initiative.

"We are gaining a clearer picture of what is really impacting our community, with hundreds of Community Conversation survey responses flowing in," Ms Jukes said.

The group met this week to begin to identify and respond to complex social problems, reach a shared aspiration, and form solutions for change.

So far, the table has more than 30 members, but organisers are seeking more.

The group is looking for diverse representation from the non-profit sector, business and philanthropy, government and community members with experience of the social service system and social disadvantage.

Among the members sitting on the table are local teacher and narrative therapist Jacqui Pasquale, and Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Community Council executive officer, Dean Wickham.

"We have to work together, bring a diverse bunch of people together to address these wicked problems," Mr Wickham said.

For more information about the community's challenges, visit www.handsupmallee.com.



• LENDING A HAND: Jacqui Pasquale, centre, Northern Mallee Community Partnership CEO, Cheree Jukes, right, Executive Officer of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Community Council CEO, Dean Wickham, and community representative Narelle Hahn-Smith, standing, are among the current 30 members of Hands Up Mallee.