



## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE A BEACON FOR HOPE

At the recent Australia Day Awards ceremony in Swan Hill, a number of people were recognised for the contributions they've made to the region. Among them, were two young women with links to Mallee Family Care and the Agency has publically acknowledged them both, saying they're an indication of the strength that exists within Mallee communities.

Arlie Atkinson accepted the Award for Community Event of the Year, for her 24 Hour Swim-a-Thon, which she organised, whilst also completing her year twelve studies, to raise money for the Mallee Family Care program, Chances for Children. Having seen the benefits the program delivers to young people in our region, who without financial assistance, may not be able to complete their education, Arlie was driven to help.

Mallee Family Care Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Teresa Jayet described Arlie as someone who understands the value of supporting local initiatives.

"Each year at our local Award ceremonies we're reminded of the generosity, determination, innovation and spirit that underpins towns across the Mallee and Arlie is a shining example of this.

"As an Agency, we're committed to supporting families and people facing difficulties and to see someone as young as Arlie, actively embracing the idea of local people helping local people, is heartening. She raised a substantial sum for Chances and every dollar we received has gone directly to the young people we support. Unequivocally, Arlie has made a difference in her community and for that we commend and thank her."

Mia Rovere was also recognised in January, receiving the Young Citizen of the Year Award for her youth advocacy work. Ms. Jayet said the Award was richly deserved and that Mallee Family Care was delighted to see one of their staff honoured for her outstanding commitment to helping make life better for adolescents living in the Swan Hill area.

"We know that young people living in regional and rural Australia face unique challenges but we also know progress is achieved when communities unite in pursuit of solutions. Sometimes these movements for change start with one person, someone like Mia.

"We applaud her for her passion and congratulate her on receiving this Award."



**For all media enquiries:**

**Kirsten Lloyd** | Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator

**T:** 03 5023 5966 **M:** 0459 020 665

**E:** [klloyd@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:klloyd@malleefamilycare.com.au)



Ms. Jayet said that the contribution both Mia and Arlie have made to Swan Hill will resonate for years to come and speaks volumes for the future of the region.

“With young people like Arlie and Mia stepping up, we have every reason to be hopeful for the future of Swan Hill and for the young people who call this region home.”

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