

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Launch supports disabilities programs**

A motor launch providing new opportunities for people with disabilities entered service at the Princess Royal Sailing Club on Saturday 21 October.

The Responder, a refurbished fishing vessel with a flat working deck, was officially introduced to service on the club's season opening day.

Club members and volunteers will use the Responder as a rescue boat, but it will have a parallel role supporting the Sailability and Fishability programs, which enable people with disabilities to enjoy sailing and fishing activities.

A \$13,000 grant through the Great Southern Development Commission's (GSDC) Community Chest Fund supported the purchase and refurbishment of the boat.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the Responder would support worthwhile programs.

"Sailability and Fishability provide challenges, excitement and enjoyment for people with disabilities," Mr Thornton said.

"The Responder will enable the coordinators to increase the number of participants and the range of activities offered through the programs.

"The programs and their volunteers contribute significantly to maintaining and building the strength and cohesion of our regional communities," Mr Thornton said.

The Responder will support Sailability by taking overflow passengers unable to find a place on a sail boat on sailing days.

It will support the Fishability program by enabling people with disabilities to fish from a boat, instead of being restricted to jetty fishing.

The flat rear deck of the launch is suitable for wheelchairs and also has room for carers.

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