

A Shared Success

Highlights of the Minister for Volunteers Report
June 2008

The 2008 Minister for Volunteers Report, ***A Shared Success***, showcases the variety of resources, programs, and events provided by the State Government, working in partnership with the voluntary sector, to help support and develop volunteering in South Australia. Download the report now by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Resources specially designed for volunteers



- The Office for Volunteers website at www.ofv.sa.gov.au, which is growing every week.
- The *State of Volunteering On-line newsletter*, now featuring real life volunteer stories.
- New fact sheets, continuing to keep communities informed.
- Special certificates, helping community groups recognise their volunteers.
- Free training for volunteers, covering a broad range of subjects relevant to volunteering.



"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else" television campaign

The South Australian Government plays an enormous role in promoting volunteering in our community. Over the past few years, a range of television commercials have aired on television, highlighting the value of volunteering.

In 2007, a brand new television campaign titled, "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else" was launched by the government and screened on commercial channels to encourage people to volunteer.



SA business leaders pledge support for community organisations

South Australian community organisations are set to benefit from more skills, knowledge and hands on deck following the launch of the State Government's new corporate volunteering initiative, on 27 March 2008.

The launch saw businesses pledging almost 2,000 volunteer hours for their employees to lend a helping hand in a range of South Australian community organisations.



Grants program a 'win-win' for students and community

The *Sustainable Online Community Engagement program*, run in partnership with the University of South Australia (UniSA), is delivering an innovative approach to promoting volunteering in South Australia.

Through the program, students from UniSA's School of Communication work closely with community organisations to help them build a website, plan and manage events, produce promotional materials and promote their organisation and services.



Volunteer resource centres announced

More than half a dozen councils across South Australia have been given the green light to receive \$15,000 of seed funding to establish Volunteer Resource Centres in their communities.

It's expected that each Volunteer Resource Centre will provide their communities with a central hub for volunteering information, resources and support.



Government
of South Australia

Office for Volunteers



Grants give community organisations a voice

The State Government has provided \$50,000, through its *Community Voices* grants program, to assist community organisations promote recruitment, retention and increased volunteer participation in the community.

Delivered in partnership with the Screen Studies Department of Flinders University, students from the department are assigned to develop video concepts to promote and market volunteer organisations.



Fund delivers much needed support for volunteers

At the beginning of 2008, the State Government awarded grants of up to \$3,000 through the annual *Volunteer Support Fund* to a variety of community groups across South Australia.

These grants are aimed at helping volunteer involving organisations who are incorporated, non government and not for profit to improve support to their volunteers. In 2008 grants assisted 83 organisations.



Policy and legislation wins for volunteers

- Free police checks are now available for volunteers working with vulnerable people, such as children, the disabled and the elderly.
- Changes made to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985* is providing greater protection for community board members.
- The *Treasurer's Instruction 15 Grant Funding* amendment is making applying for and reporting on government grants much simpler for community organisations.



Living books "open up" at arts festival

The State Government's Office for Volunteers, State Library of South Australia and the Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts joined forces on 1-9 March 2008 to present *Living Books* to showcase and celebrate volunteering.

The event was a huge success, with more than 90 extraordinary South Australians sharing their stories as *Living Books* and over 400 members of the community visiting the 'living library' to borrow them out!



Recognition events for South Australia's volunteers

- Outstanding local volunteers are now being honoured at Community Cabinets, taking place at different locations around metropolitan and regional South Australia.
- A number of South Australian individuals and businesses are awarded some of the State's most prestigious honours at the free Volunteers Day celebration, hosted by the Minister for Volunteers, on the Queen's Birthday public holiday every year.



State Volunteers Congress a resounding success

The free Volunteers Congress held every year on International Volunteers Day, 5 December, continues to play its part as a forum for providing information to leaders of the voluntary sector in South Australia.

The 2007 congress was no exception with about 300 people coming together to celebrate around the theme *Cultural Diversity: Making the Difference*.

Further information:

Download a free copy of the 2008 Minister for Volunteers Report, *A Shared Success*, by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au. For any queries, contact the Office for Volunteers by phoning 8463 4490.