



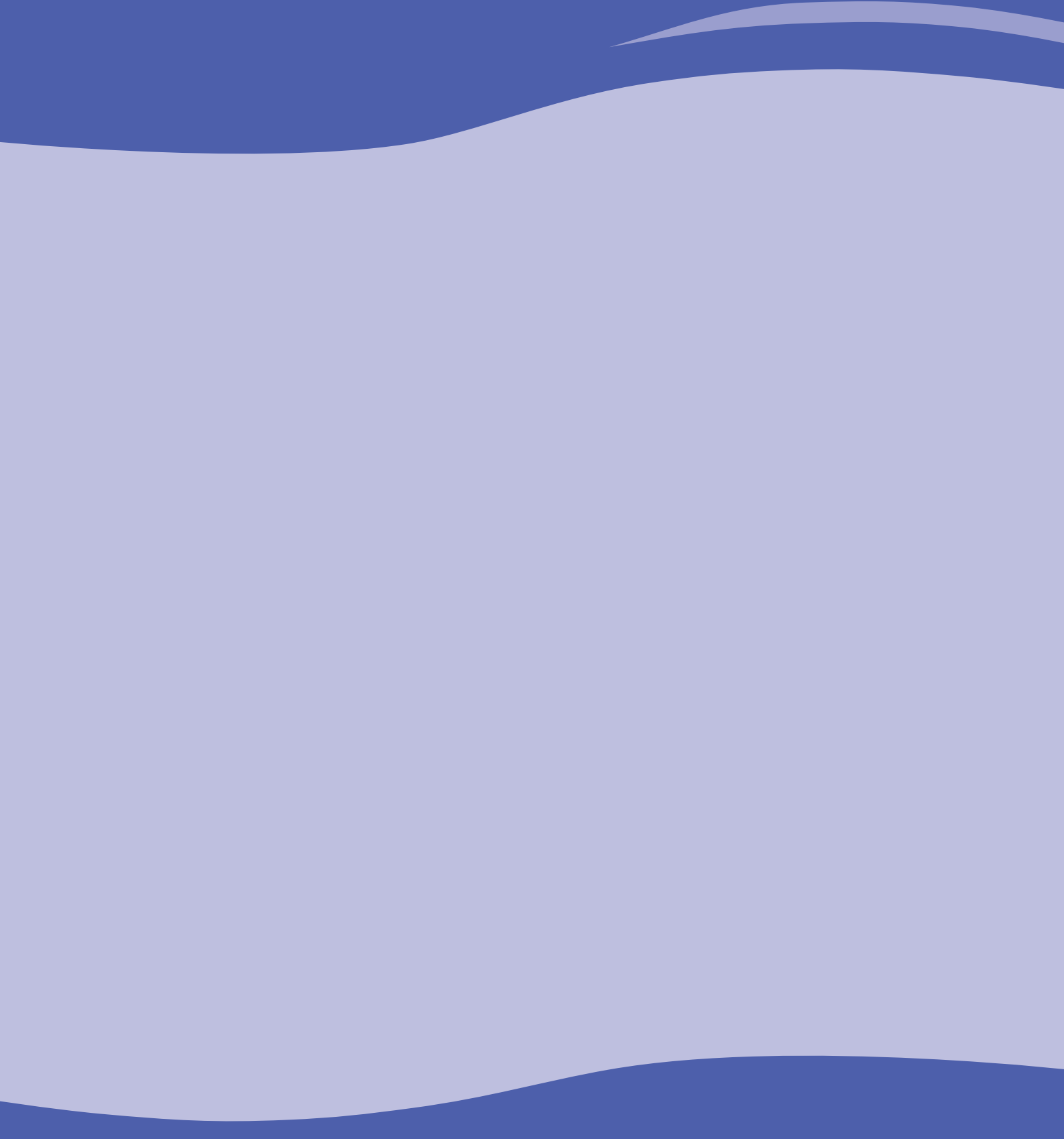
Creating The Future Together

ACT Partnership Report
To the Premier

June 2006



Government
of South Australia



Foreward from Minister for Volunteers

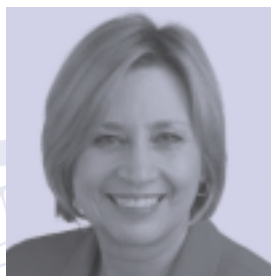
As Minister for Volunteers I am delighted to present this report to the Premier on *Advancing the Community Together: A Partnership between the Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government* (the ACT Partnership). South Australia is a leader in volunteering and its participation rates reflect this.

Volunteers play a vital role in communities throughout South Australia. They are involved in all facets of life, selflessly helping people who are less fortunate, providing emergency services, assisting in our schools and hospitals, looking after our environment and enabling sport and recreation.

We are committed to support and encourage volunteering in our State.

A great deal has been achieved over the past twelve months through the shared efforts of the Government and the Volunteer Sector and we look forward to working together in new and exciting ways following the ACT Partnership's recent biennial review.

I would like to thank the members of the Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group (VMAG) and the Volunteer Partnership Action Committee (VPAC) for their excellent contributions throughout the year.



I commend this report to the Premier.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Rankine".

Hon Jennifer Rankine MP
MINISTER FOR VOLUNTEERS



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Introduction

The following report to the Premier on the ongoing success of *Advancing the Community Together: A Partnership between the Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government* (ACT Partnership) outlines the achievements of the Partnership in 2005-2006.

The Volunteer Sector and Government have taken their responsibilities under the Partnership to new heights as demonstrated by the many positive developments highlighted in this report.

The relationship between the Volunteer Sector and Government has matured since the document was originally signed in 2003, making the recently completed review of the ACT Partnership timely.

Volunteering is included in the South Australian Strategic Plan (SASP) as a key indicator of Building Communities (Objective 5). This Objective states:

Our priority is to develop South Australia as a place in which people care for each other and contribute to their communities. This will enhance our peace, pride and prosperity and build "social capital". It will also attract new migrants, visitors and investors who bring skills, resources and ideas. The focus will be on improving trust, increasing involvement in voluntary activities, building strong community networks, and increasing participation in democratic processes.

It is expected that the forthcoming recommendations from the review will reinvigorate and add focus to the ACT Partnership, confirming it as the roadmap for achievement of the targets laid out in the South Australian Strategic Plan (SASP).



SECTION 1: Partnership Achievements Overview

Progress

Advancing the Community Together: A Partnership between the Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government in May 2003 has led to significant progress in the ongoing development of the Volunteer Sector in South Australia.

Highest Volunteer Participation rate in the Nation

The Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government can be proud of the fact that South Australia boasts the highest participation rate in the nation. Recent records indicate over half the South Australian population actively volunteers. In 2001 the volunteer effort in South Australia was worth approximately \$5 billion to the State's economy, and in 2006 with higher participation rates it would be worth well in excess of this figure.

The Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group (VMAG) and the Volunteer Partnership Action Committee (VPAC) have continued to make significant contributions to the Partnership process which underpins this outstanding achievement.

Direct voice into Government

VMAG offers the volunteer sector a direct voice into government. Each member represents a sector of the volunteer community and are required to regularly consult with their particular sector to share information, identify issues and receive feedback.

Coordination across Government

VPAC has played an important role in taking advice from VMAG on issues affecting the Volunteer Sector and implementing coordinated responses across government agencies.

Section 1 of this report will outline some key achievements made through the collaborative approach facilitated by the ACT Partnership commitments. These key achievements have been tied directly to commitments made by both Sectors in the ACT Partnership document.

SECTION 1:

Key Achievements

GRANT APPLICATIONS MADE EASIER

It is now much easier for community organisations to access government grants. Advice on the availability of grants is streamlined and comprehensive, application forms are simpler and acquittal requirements have been rationalised.

There is now a dedicated site on the Government's Service SA website that consolidates all information from grant availability to tips on submitting successful applications. This information can be found at <http://www.service.sa.gov.au/grants.asp>

Application and information forms for community grants will have a similar style and language. Where possible procedures for all small grants will be on a common application form, have similar funding agreements and acquittal procedures.

The rationalised reporting and acquittal requirements for community organisations on all State Government grants below \$5000 have had a positive impact across the volunteer sector. Financial management pressures have consequently been significantly reduced for approximately 80% of all state grants.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Ensure the Office for Volunteers is kept informed and up to date on all Government grants relating to volunteering.
- Manage, support and communicate through structures which enable volunteers to participate to their full potential.
- Ensure documentation, information and applications are accessible, appropriate, clear and available in relevant community languages.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.

Resources

- Recognise the particular circumstances of small organisations as well as rural and small communities.
- Work with the Volunteer Sector to review and modify its application guidelines and processes to ensure consistent and clear guidelines, equitable access to resources and appropriate agreements.

SECTION 1:

Key Achievements

TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Government established a program of free training for volunteers. In partnership with Volunteering SA and Volunteer Resource Centres, training for volunteers, including 'Governance', 'Writing Grant Applications' and 'Event Planning', was delivered around the State. The program's educational outcomes flowed from advice received as a result of research from the University of South Australia.

A discussion paper and fact sheet has been circulated to provide information on insurance for the Volunteer Sector.

Volunteers and volunteer organisations will soon have access to the latest information on the availability of training in their region. Training providers from across the State will be able to place details of their volunteer training schedules on the www.savolunteer.info website. This live and interactive "Training Calendar" will reduce duplication of training and give greater choice to the Volunteer Sector.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Ensure the Volunteer Sector is kept informed and advised in a timely manner of any relevant issues or developments.
- Share information and ideas that will enhance our community, promote volunteering and recognise the contribution of volunteers.

Training

- Recognise the need for volunteers and people who manage volunteer programs to develop and sustain the skills required to provide quality services.
- Accept that some training may be required by legislation, while other training requirements may be necessary for accreditation and to meet industry or safety standards.
- Identify and implement appropriate training strategies, relevant to the needs and purpose of the organisation, group or volunteer activity.
- Recognise that volunteers require access to training to undertake their many and varied roles.

Risk Management

- Disseminate information on issues of liability, insurance and risk management which impact on the role of volunteers and the management of volunteer organisations.
- Monitor legislation as it impacts on volunteers.
- Work together to address insurance issues impacting on the volunteer community.

SECTION 1:

Key Achievements

FREE POLICE CHECKS

The South Australian Government introduced free police checks for volunteers working with incorporated, not for profit, non-government organisations that provide services to vulnerable groups such as children, the aged and people with disabilities.

This follows the introduction of the National Police Check System, and therefore supports efforts across Australia to reduce risks associated with care for vulnerable people within our community.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Risk management

- Monitor legislations as it impacts on volunteers.
- Initiate legislative action or release policy guidelines to ensure protection and support to nominated groups of volunteers, where appropriate.

LEGISLATION TO ASSIST VOLUNTEERING

In meeting the ACT Partnership commitments the South Australian Government has reviewed all legislation potentially impacting on the Volunteer Sector. An amendment to the Recreation Services Limitation of Liability Act 2002 means that the cost for volunteer organisations to develop codes of practice can be waived under certain circumstances.

Legislative changes concerning personal liability are also being progressed after concerns were raised by the community through VMAG. The Associations Incorporation Act 1985 is to be amended to add the defence of delegation and reasonable reliance. This will increase interest in volunteering for board positions by removing concerns over various liability issues.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.
- Provide information and work with the Volunteer Sector in relation to the impact of any legislative or policy changes.

SECTION 1:

Key Achievements

PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING

The “*It’s a two way thing*” promotional campaign was once again featured as a community service announcement on television in January 2006. The campaign focuses on the benefits of volunteering for young people.

This initiative aims to attract new volunteers by changing the public perception of volunteering. Volunteering is portrayed as an activity that can be fun, engaging and worthwhile for people of all ages. Youth and families have been a feature of the campaign.

One measure of the success of the campaign is the public response in seeking more information. This has created a surge of hits on the www.savolunteer.info recruitment website during the campaign cycle.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Share information and ideas that will enhance our community, promote volunteering and recognise the contribution of volunteers.

Recruitment and Retention

- Promote and support young peoples’ participation in volunteering.
- Foster, encourage and promote volunteering throughout the community.

SECTION 1:

Key Achievements

INFORMATION PACK

The *Volunteer Partnership in Action: Resource Information* booklet was developed to provide a convenient package of information that covers insurance in the volunteer sector, a media guide for community groups, a sponsorship guide for community groups, useful contacts and links as well as information on the Volunteer Protection Act 2001.

Fact sheets on the following have been produced to supplement the booklet. They are available as either hard copies or on the OFV web site www.ofv.sa.gov.au

- Recognising Your Volunteers
- Risk Management
- Implementing Dispute Resolution Policy
- Solving Volunteer Workplace Disputes
- Engaging People With Disabilities In Volunteering

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Ensure the Volunteer Sector is kept informed and advised in a timely manner of any relevant issues or developments.

This Booklet with the Fact Sheets provided is relevant to numerous commitments under the ACT Partnership headings including:

- **Recruitment and Retention**
- **Equity and Inclusiveness**
- **Policy and Legislation Development and**
- **Risk Management.**

SECTION 1:

Key Achievements

ANNUAL STATE VOLUNTEER CONGRESS

The Congress provides a forum through which members of the Volunteer Sector can share their views on the progress of the ACT Partnership. Workshops are held on key issues raised by the Sector throughout the year, and keynote speakers provide valuable insights on major trends and topics in volunteering. Holding an annual Congress is a key strategy of the ACT Partnership which strengthens the relationship between the South Australian Government and the Volunteer Sector.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Manage, support and communicate through structures which enable volunteers to participate to their full potential.
- Share information that will enhance our community, promote volunteering and recognise the contribution of volunteers.
- Ensure the Volunteer Sector is kept informed and advised in a timely manner of any relevant issues or developments.

SECTION 2: Key Government Initiatives

The success and strength of the ACT Partnership is demonstrated through the activity of various government departments in the form of new volunteering initiatives and programs.

Outlined in this section are a number of key government initiatives in volunteering demonstrating the breadth of government commitment to the ACT Partnership objectives.



SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Success Through Partnership: A Strategy for Volunteer Engagement

The Department for Environment and Heritage has launched *Success Through Partnership: A Strategy for Volunteer Engagement*. The Strategy aims to build on the success of the Department's current volunteer programs such as Friends of Parks, and to set the direction for a reinvigorated approach to volunteer engagement over the next five years. It strongly reflects the Department's commitment to respond to new and emerging needs, and to address the gaps in services and support for its current volunteer programs.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Manage, support and communicate through structures which enable volunteers to participate to their full potential.
- Develop ways to better communicate understanding of priorities and the sharing of ideas and information

Recruitment and Retention

- Provide opportunities for volunteering within Government agencies where appropriate.

Training

- Recognise that volunteers require access to training to undertake their many and varied roles.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and cultures to volunteer in an area which matches their abilities and interest, while contributing to the community.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.
- Develop policies and best practice guidelines relating to volunteering and review these at regular intervals.

Resources

- Recognise the particular circumstances of small organisations as well as rural and small communities.

SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DFEEST)

South Australia Works

The *South Australia Works* Strategy is promoting a broader approach to addressing learning, training and employment needs. The *South Australia Works* Strategy incorporates a number of programs for volunteers including:

South Australia Works in Communities

The Adult and Community Education (ACE) Grants Program provides 25% of funds to rural and remote areas of the State. During 2003-2006 funds were allocated to the Yorke Peninsula to support the development of a volunteer mentoring program. This program attracts volunteers/mentors to work with people within the region who have specific language, literacy and numeracy needs.

South Australia Works for Mature Aged People

'*Don't Overlook Mature Aged Experience*' (DOME) is an organisation built to assist mature age jobseekers. DOME is funded by DFEEST under the Employment Assistance Program and has historically recognised that, by exposing people to voluntary work, they can improve their employability skills. To reflect this, volunteers primarily service DOME. DOME encourages jobseekers to undertake training to become volunteers and advise DFEEST that many obtain employment as a result of their experience with DOME.



SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Manage, support and communicate through structures which enable volunteers to participate to their full potential.

Recruitment and Retention

- Provide opportunities for volunteering within Government agencies where appropriate.

Training

- Recognise that volunteers require access to training to undertake their many and varied roles.
- Recognise the need for volunteers and people who manage volunteer programs to develop and sustain the skills required to undertake their many and varied roles.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and cultures to volunteer in an area which matches their abilities and interest, while contributing to the community.
- Recognise the challenges facing volunteers in remote and rural communities and on traditional lands.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.
- Consult with peak volunteering organisations when proposed legislation or policy has significant impact on volunteering.

Resources

- Recognise the particular circumstances of small organisations as well as rural and small communities.
- Promote joint ventures with the community sector, various levels of government, the corporate sector, educational institutions and the media.

SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

OFFICE FOR YOUTH

The Office for Youth provides a range of programs that aim to support the participation of young people in volunteer activities, such as Active8, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Youth Advisory Committees.

Through these programs, approximately 4,000 young South Australians volunteer their time, contributing towards building the prosperity of our State.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Develop ways to better communicate understanding of priorities and the sharing of ideas and information.
- Facilitate research and development strategies to enhance volunteering as well as sharing of information and ideas.

Recruitment and Retention

- Promote and support young peoples' participation in volunteering.
- Provide opportunities for volunteering within Government agencies where appropriate.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Recognise that people volunteer in many different ways and ensure their contribution is valued and respected.
- Ensure that volunteering in all its different forms is recognised when allocating resources.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.
- Develop policies and best practice guidelines relating to volunteering and review these at regular intervals.



SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

SENIOR SECONDARY ASSESSMENT BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SSABSA)

Step Up - Community Learning

An exciting new approach developed by SSABSA over 4 years of research and consultation. *Step Up* recognises the value of learning that is undertaken outside the classroom, including personal learning such as care giving or mentoring, and allows it to count towards the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). Much of this learning is supported by the many volunteers involved in activities taking place outside of the classroom.

Step Up allows up to eight units of community learning to be counted towards the 22 needed for South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) completion.

The recognition of community learning is a key initiative under the State Government's School Retention Action Plan.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Recruitment and Retention

- Promote and support young peoples' participation in volunteering.

Training

- Recognise that volunteers require access to training to undertake their many and varied roles.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Recognise that people volunteer in many different ways and ensure their contribution is valued and respected.
- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and cultures to volunteer in an area which matches their abilities and interest, while contributing to the community.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.
- Develop policies and best practice guidelines relating to volunteering and review these at regular intervals.
- Consult with peak volunteering organisations when proposed legislation or policy has significant impact on volunteering.

SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

DEPARTMENT FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (DFC)

Internal Volunteers Unit

In December 2005 DFC formed an internal Volunteers Unit to consolidate information about volunteers associated with the Department and provide both a framework for their continued engagement and recognition for their achievements.

The Unit has written a DFC-wide Volunteers Policy and Charter of Mutual Obligation which is currently in the consultation stage. They are expected to be signed off by 30 June 2006.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Manage, support and communicate through structures which enable volunteers to participate to their full potential.
- Ensure the Volunteer Sector is kept informed and advised in a timely manner of any relevant issues or developments.

Recruitment and Retention

- Provide opportunities for volunteering within Government agencies where appropriate.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Recognise that people volunteer in many different ways and ensure that their contribution is valued and respected.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Identify and respond to issues which impede volunteering in general.
- Provide information and advice and work together with the Volunteer Sector in relation to the impact of any legislative or policy changes.
- Develop policies and best practice guidelines relating to volunteering and review these at regular intervals.
- Consult with peak volunteering organisations when proposed legislation or policy has a significant impact on volunteering.

SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES (PIRSA)

Fishcare Volunteer Program

PIRSA continues to provide ongoing funding to run its state-wide Fishcare Volunteer Program which aims to encourage voluntary compliance with fisheries legislation.

The Department has put in place strategies to recruit volunteers from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds into its Fishcare Volunteer Program.

PIRSA has developed a standard operating procedures manual to ensure a safe volunteering environment and a consistent level of service delivery by its Fishcare Volunteers.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Training

- Accept that some training may be required by legislations, while other training requirements may be necessary for accreditation to meet industry or safety standards.

Risk Management

- Initiate legislative action or release policy guidelines to ensure protection and support to nominated groups of volunteers, where appropriate.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Recognise that people volunteer in many different ways and ensure their contribution is valued and respected.
- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and cultures to volunteer in an area which matches their abilities and interest, while contributing to the community.
- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and cultures to volunteer in an area which matches their abilities and interest, while contributing to the community.

Resources

- Ensure sufficient financial and staff resources when providing volunteering opportunities within Government agencies.

SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A Collaborative Approach to Training

The State Library of South Australia has, in partnership with TAFE, Adelaide Festival Centre and SA Museum, introduced funded Nationally Accredited training for volunteers. The training equates to a Certificate II in Tourism (Tour Guiding).

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Training

- Recognise the need for volunteers and people who manage volunteer programs to develop and sustain the skills required to provide quality services.
- Recognise that volunteers require access to training to undertake their many and varied roles.



SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Working in Harmony Program

The 'Working In Harmony Program' (WIHP) has been developed to implement the 'Workplace Dignity: Eliminating Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace' policy and procedures for volunteers of the Country Fire Service and the State Emergency Service.

The WIHP has a specific focus on providing a quality service and policy implementation to the 16,000 volunteers of the Country Fire Service and the State Emergency Service.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Communication

- Develop better ways to communicate understanding of priorities and the sharing of ideas and information.

Training

- Recognise the need for volunteers and people who manage volunteer programs to develop and sustain the skills required to provide quality services.
- Recognise that volunteers require access to training to undertake their many and varied roles.

Equity and Inclusiveness

- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and cultures to volunteer in an area which matches their abilities and interest, while contributing to the community.

Policy and Legislation Development

- Develop policies and best practice guidelines relating to volunteering and review these at regular intervals.
- Consult with peak volunteering organisations when proposed legislation or policy has significant impact on volunteering.
- Provide information and advice and work together with the Volunteer Sector in relation to the impact of any legislative or policy changes.

SECTION 2: Government Supporting Volunteering

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Social Inclusion Unit: School Retention Action Plan

The Social Inclusion Unit coordinates a range of initiatives including activities under the School Retention Action Plan. This Plan seeks to implement a range of strategies to assist youth to remain at school. Strategies involving volunteers include:

The Innovative Community Action Network program led by The Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) has involved community and business leaders volunteering their time to community forums and committees in order to identify and implement strategies to keep young people engaged in education and schools.

The Community Mentoring Program led by DECS links young people between the ages of 12 and 18 at risk of leaving school early by providing volunteer community mentors to assist them to make successful transitions between primary and secondary school.

Relevant ACT Partnership commitments:

Recruitment and retention

- Foster, encourage and promote volunteering throughout the community.
- Provide opportunities for volunteering within Government agencies where appropriate.

Resources

- Promote joint ventures with the community sector, various levels of government, the corporate sector, educational institutions and the media.



SECTION 3: Act Partnership Review 2005

The ACT Partnership states:

“To ensure the relevance of Advancing the Community Together is maintained, the document will be revisited on a biennial basis and will incorporate ongoing community consultation.”

Ensuring the Relevance

The inaugural biennial review of *Advancing the Community Together: A Partnership between the Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government* was undertaken between July and December 2005 in accordance with ACT Partnership guidelines.

The Volunteer Sector, Government Agencies and the Office for Volunteers (OFV) have all evolved and are taking on new roles as the ACT Partnership matures. The Volunteer Partnership Action Committee (VPAC) and Government Agencies are working more cooperatively with the Volunteer Sector. The OFV has changed emphasis from a support to a leadership role.

The aim of the Partnership review was to identify changes in the needs of the partners and to make recommendations that would ensure the ongoing viability and relevance of the ACT document.

Realigning the Model

Response to the Review indicates a very pleasing level of satisfaction with the overall relationship.

- The Volunteer Sector views the ACT Partnership as a demonstrable commitment by the South Australian Government to the Volunteer Sector.
- There is overwhelming support for the Partnership and the effectiveness of implementation to date.
- There is strong support for the mechanisms put in place to implement the Partnership including the Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group (VMAG) representing the volunteer sector and the Volunteer Partnership Action Committee (VPAC) representing government agencies.

SECTION 3: Act Partnership Review 2005

It was widely suggested by Government Departments and VMAG organisations that there needs to be a change in the implementation model. A continuing role remains for VMAG and VPAC but within a revised format.

The full ACT Partnership Review Report can be found at www.ofv.sa.gov.au or a copy can be obtained contacting the Office for Volunteers on 8463 4490.

The Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group will be considering the Review recommendations in the near future. For a contact list of VMAG members please refer to Appendix 1.



SECTION 4: Future Directions

The Partnership review has highlighted a maturing of the Partnership. The Volunteer Sector is now looking for a more strategic approach to implementing their partnership commitments. Government agencies now recognise the importance of the Volunteer Sector and are working more cooperatively in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for volunteering in South Australia. Both Sectors acknowledge that there is equal ownership and responsibility for the Partnership and its future.

A key focus of Government activity is supporting the achievement of targets detailed in the South Australian Strategic Plan (SASP). Government Departments are in a position to use the framework of ACT Partnership commitments to work with the Volunteer Sector in developing new approaches. This will complement the broader objectives of the South Australian Strategic Plan.

The SASP Target for Volunteering focussed on increasing participation through addressing barriers to volunteering. It included a specific target of 50% participation by 2010. According to the recent survey, *Volunteering in South Australia in 2006*, 51% of South Australians are involved in some form of formal volunteering activity.

The combination of changes in the way government works due to the demands of the SASP, and the need to maintain the relevance of the ACT Partnership in this new environment, calls for a change in the way the Partnership operates.

The ACT Partnership will need to accommodate a shift to a smaller number of high priority and complex issues which impact across a number of ACT Partnership commitments and SASP outcomes.

SECTION 4: Future Directions

Future ACT Partnership Implementation Activities

Building Communities

When considering the broader context of building communities, increasing social capital and ensuring the sustainability of the Volunteer Sector into the future, some of the themes that have emerged include:

- The need to work on SASP targets where volunteering has a significant impact. These include:
 - Volunteering as a way of re-engaging older people in their communities (which also has impacts on improved health outcomes).
 - Employment and Education, for example; with an ageing workforce, volunteering can be utilised as a valuable entry point into the workplace for young people.
- Volunteer response to emergencies
- Diversification of the Volunteer Sector
- Improved use of Information Technology in the Volunteer Sector
- Targeted marketing for priority groups and to engage the Volunteer Sector's access to marketing

Networks and Communication

Opportunity now exists to build on the strengths of the Partnership. The Review of the Partnership outlined improved communications strategies that address the challenges ahead. These include:

- More formal networks that enable rural and regional volunteers to receive information about the Partnership and the benefits it brings.
- A review of the Partnership communications process to ensure that both Government and the Sector remain committed and the Partnership remains strong.



SECTION 5: Conclusion

Conclusion

The ACT Partnership has demonstrated its continuing relevance as a framework for the future. The commitments within the ACT Partnership document remain as a guide on volunteer issues and needs.

The ACT Partnership, and the people who make it a reality, have been successful in meeting the South Australian Strategic Plan target of 50% of people volunteering in South Australia by 2010 with time to spare.

The results of this report are indicative of the exceptional commitment and work undertaken by all involved in the ACT Partnership over the last 3 years.

The future lies in a focussed and concerted effort from both partners to strengthen communication, maintain the South Australian volunteering rate and ensure the ongoing sustainability of the Volunteer Sector.

This future will be achieved through a broader interpretation of the place of volunteering within the South Australian Strategic Plan, and the ongoing work of the Advancing the Community Together Partnership.

SHARING INFORMATION AND GETTING INVOLVED

Appendix 1

The Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group provides volunteer organisations a direct voice into government. The members representing a particular sector of the volunteer community can be contacted to make suggestions or raise volunteering issues. Below is a list of Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group members and their contact details.

Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group Members and contact details

Mrs Anne Bachmann, Past President Royal Association of Justices SA Inc
Contact details: hedley.bachmann@adelaide.on.net *Phone:* 8261 4122

Ms Vivienne Barker, Executive Officer Southern Volunteering Inc
Contact details: vivbarker.fvrc@internode.on.net *Phone:* 8384 9202

Mrs Carol Bouwens, Elected Member Central Ward, City of Marion
Contact details: Carol.bouwens@marion.sa.gov.au *Phone:* 8298 6079

Ms Tracy Crisp, Executive Officer, Arts Industry SA
Contact details: tcrisp@senet.com.au *Phone:* 8297 3605

Mr Paul Flynn, Chief Executive Officer, CanDo4Kids - Townsend House
Contact details: paul.flynn@cando4kids.com.au *Phone:* 8298 0935

Mr Derren Halleday, Executive Officer, State Emergency Service
Contact details: halleday@bigpond.net.au *Phone:* 0417 834 801

Mr Peter Heyworth, President, Australasian Association of Volunteer Administrators
Contact details: mail@rsb.org.au *Phone:* 8232 4777

Ms Monika Klein, Regional Communities Consultative Council
Contact details: wmklein@iprimus.com.au *Phone:* 8676 8053

Mr Mark Leahy, Volunteer Coordinator, Welfare Rights Centre SA Inc
Contact details: mark-l@wrcsa.org.au *Phone:* 8226 4123

Mr David Mitchell, President, Trees For Life
Contact details: dm_mitchell@bigpond.com *Phone:* 8251 1088

Ms Gwen Moore, Volunteer Contact Association of Major Community Organisations
Contact details: gwen.moore@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au *Phone:* 8202 5111

Ms Sue Nightingale, Director, Northern Volunteering SA Inc
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SHARING INFORMATION AND GETTING INVOLVED

Appendix 1

Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group Members and contact details *(continued)*

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Ms Debra Petrys, Manager, Programs and Projects, COTA National Seniors
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Ms Rosemary Sage, Executive Officer, Recreation SA Inc
Contact details: recsa@tpg.com.au *Phone:* 8232 6477

Mr David Savage, Chairman, Association of Community Service Organisations
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