

# ACT Partnership

The State Government has long recognised the importance of the volunteer sector to the health and strength of our communities.

Volunteers are involved in all aspects of life in South Australia. With over six-hundred thousand volunteers active in thousands of clubs and organisations throughout the State, the volunteer sector is also very diverse. The sector provides help and services in areas ranging from the Arts, Sport, Conservation, Health and Welfare, Education, Disability and Charity.

The contribution made to South Australia by community organisations has always been highly valued. Following several months of meetings throughout the State, it was decided that the best way forward was to recruit people from the various industries of the volunteer sector and form a group to advise the Government of its needs and then work in partnership towards solutions. This strategy was laid out in a formal document entitled the *Advancing the Community Together (ACT) Partnership*.

This Partnership confirmed the Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group (VMAG) as the State's key body representing the major industries within the volunteer sector, ranging from Arts, Sport & Recreation, Welfare, Charities and so on.

A vital part of their role is to consult with volunteer organisations within their sector and to provide feedback and advice to the Government. The Partnership, through the Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group, has effectively made the volunteer sector responsible for communicating their priorities and concerns to the Government, which in turn, is committed to participating in developing solutions.

The Volunteer Partnership Action Committee (VPAC), consisting of senior executives from all Government Agencies, has responsibility for ensuring that impact on the Volunteer Sector of government legislation or actions is given high priority and that there is consistency throughout all government departments.

Much has been achieved through the close collaboration of the Government and the volunteer sector under the Partnership such as:

- > Free training for volunteers
- > Annual gala events that recognise and honour volunteers
- > Volunteer awards programs
- > Support for seminars and conferences
- > Informative websites developed
- > Fact Sheets and other sources of information
- > Simplified grant application and acquittal
- > Information Technology and communications assistance from South Australian universities for community organisations

The requirement for constant improvement saw a recent review of the Partnership leading to a system that will have expert groups coming together as project teams to take issues and ideas through to completion.

To make your contribution, contact the person who represents your section or area of interest on the Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group. Their details can be obtained by contacting the Office for Volunteers:

Phone 8463 4490 or e-mail [ofv@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:ofv@saugov.sa.gov.au)

For further information and copies of the formal Partnership document visit the Office for Volunteers website under "*Partnering the Community*" [www.ofv.sa.gov.au](http://www.ofv.sa.gov.au)



**Government  
of South Australia**

Office for Volunteers

[www.ofv.sa.gov.au](http://www.ofv.sa.gov.au)