

Highlights of the Minister for Volunteers Report June 2011

This summary of the 2011 *Minister for Volunteers Report* highlights the range of initiatives and programs developed collaboratively by the State Government and the volunteer community to encourage and support volunteering in South Australia. To download the Minister for Volunteers full report, go to www.ofv.sa.gov.au.



added promotion of their services. The documentaries produced are used for promotion, training and recruitment. During 2010-2011, ten organisations benefited from the program including The Mary Potter Foundation, The Cora Barclay Centre, West Coast Youth Services and Edmund Rice Camps.



Students and Community Groups Work Together for Sustainability Online

The *Sustainable Online Community Engagement (SOCE)* program has so far helped hundreds of community groups create websites and other promotional materials, and hundreds of students gain practical experience dealing with clients and marketing their services. Produced using a specially designed Content Management System (CMS), each website is hosted free of charge by the University of South Australia. Students teach their clients how to update their own websites independently.



Partnerships Provide Community Voices

The *Community Voices* program sees Flinders University Screen Production students working with selected community groups to produce short documentaries and television commercials. Groups producing commercials are assisted in getting their commercial aired on television - enabling each to capitalise on their commercial and the

Volunteer Support Fund

Each year, a broad range of community organisations benefit from the *Volunteer Support Fund*. Recent beneficiaries include St Johns Youth Service, The Women's Housing Association and PISA Italian Meals and Services. Groups use the funds to provide training for volunteers, safety equipment and other resources such as computer software. The fund has been going for nine years and has helped over 950 organisations with small grants of up to \$3,000 since its inception.

Encouraging the Corporate Face of Volunteering

Making the most of the skills and know-how of South Australia's corporate, professional and semi-professional community, *Corporates4Communities* matches business volunteers with community organisations seeking assistance. Over the past year more than 20 matches have been made through this initiative with very rewarding results. The benefits of the connection are far reaching with many volunteers reporting a high level of satisfaction and organisations really appreciating the services received.

Free Internet, Computer and Training Access for Volunteers Statewide

In October 2010 the *Information Communication Technology (ICT) Access Listing* initiative was launched. In a real win for the community, the listing provides a comprehensive register of free and low cost internet, computer and computer training access sites in schools, libraries and community centres across the State. The register enables community groups to better utilise resources in their local areas and make the most of online technology.

Centres Provide Extra Local Resources for Volunteers

The Office for Volunteers has provided \$15,000 in seed funding for many local councils to set up volunteer resource centres in their communities, as part of the biggest volunteer infrastructure program in South Australia's history. The City of Holdfast Bay is the most recent council to take advantage of the initiative, opening its Volunteer Resource Centre in December. More than 18 councils have set up facilities with the funding, creating a localised one-stop-shop for all things volunteering.



Community groups use government resources to deliver services

With the recent addition of 36 TAFESA campuses to the *Volunteer Partnership - Accessing Resources* project, volunteers have more than 120 sites across South Australia to use resources at a reduced rate or in many cases free. Along with the TAFESA campuses, resources are on offer from government offices, hospitals and health services, libraries, schools and ambulance stations across metropolitan and regional South Australia. Under the initiative, groups can make use of a range of government resources, ranging from classrooms and meeting rooms to kitchens and car parking.



State Congress: Volunteers Tweet and Uncover the Power of Social Media

The 2010 *State Volunteer Congress* was all about opening minds to the possibilities of the online world. Twitter, Facebook and YouTube were discussed, with representatives from three well-known local public relations and digital media firms delivering key note addresses. Another highlight – a top five ranking in the State for the Twitter forum (#SAVolunteers) on the day: proving the power of social media!



Online Training Helps Community Groups Recruit New Arrivals to South Australia

The *Volunteering - A Gateways to Communities* initiative provides a range of tools and resources for community groups including online cultural awareness training to assist in attracting and recruiting volunteers from migrant, refugee or international student backgrounds. Online training modules provide organisations with techniques for understanding the benefits of recruiting new arrivals to South Australia, and insights into the issues they face, as well as informing new ways to look at volunteering. For new arrivals, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous and include meeting new people, gaining a greater understanding of Australian culture, acquiring different skill sets, better understanding of the services available, and broader networks of people in the community.



Volunteers Day: Recognising and Rewarding Volunteers

Nearly 2000 volunteers enjoyed Adelaide Cabaret Festival performances at the 2010 Volunteers Day Concert, complemented by the antics of well known South Australian media identity Peter Goers. The event was hosted by Minister for Volunteers, Hon Grace Portolesi and featured an address by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia. Exceptional South Australians and local businesses received some of the State's most esteemed awards at the annual event held on the Queen's Birthday public holiday.

Further information

Download your free copy of the 2011 *Minister for Volunteers Report* by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au. For any queries, contact the Office for Volunteers by phoning 8463 4490.