



Volunteer

Highlights of the Minister for Volunteers Report June 2010

The 2010 *Minister for Volunteers Report* highlights the range of initiatives and programs jointly developed by the State Government and the voluntary sector to help encourage and support volunteering in our State. Download the report now by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au.

More State Government facilities and resources to be used by volunteers

Over the past year, the Office for Volunteers has worked closely with various South Australian Government agencies to develop a program aimed at increasing the use of government-owned facilities and resources by volunteer groups. So far, about 90 offices, hospital and health services, libraries, schools and ambulance stations have offered to share their facilities and resources, which range from meeting rooms to office equipment, with volunteer groups.

New Volunteer Resource Centre opens in the Copper Coast region

Volunteering in the Copper Coast region has been given a boost with the opening of the new District Council of the Copper Coast Volunteer Resource Centre. Housed in the Wallaroo Town Hall, the new centre will provide a hub for volunteer resources, support, information and promotion in the northern part of Yorke Peninsula.

The Wallaroo centre is part of the largest volunteer infrastructure program in the State's history with the South Australian Government providing \$15,000 in seed funding to selected local councils to set up volunteer resource centres in their communities.



Corporate volunteers link with community groups

Now in its third year, the *Corporates4Communities (C4C)* program continues to develop strongly. Managed on behalf of the State Government by Heta Incorporated, C4C links the skills and expertise of local business professionals who want to volunteer with the needs of South Australian community organisations.

Through C4C, almost 4,000 professional hours were contributed to the South Australian community in the 2008-09 calendar year. This equates to about \$400,000 of estimated benefit to the community.



Funding support for volunteer groups

Through the \$150,000 *Volunteer Support Fund*, the State Government provides grants of up to \$3,000 to volunteer organisations for training and resources.

This year, 109 organisations received a grant with 59 located in the Adelaide metropolitan area. The remaining 50 were from regional South Australia.



Funding provided for community organisations to market themselves

The Office for Volunteers has partnered with the Screen Studies Department at Flinders University in an initiative to produce short films and television commercials for South Australian volunteer organisations.

Called *Community Voices*, the \$50,000 program sees students working with selected volunteer organisations to develop short films and television commercials, which aim to promote the organisations and their services.





More than 300 delegates at State Volunteer Congress

More than 300 delegates attended the 2009 State Volunteer Congress, which was held at the National Wine Centre at Hackney, and had *The Power of Partnerships* as its theme.

Congress delegates were from across the voluntary sector and included volunteer managers and coordinators, community development officers and office bearers from community groups along with mainstream volunteers looking for information and resources to support their continued involvement in the sector.

Variety of resources for community groups and volunteers

- The Office for Volunteers website at www.ofv.sa.gov.au is continually being updated and includes fact sheets and information on volunteer grants, awards, support programs, policy, research and legislation.
- The *State of Volunteering On-line* newsletter has developed to become a valuable communication tool for volunteer groups. Produced fortnightly, its content includes events, news, announcements, training information and volunteer's own stories.
- The *Volunteer Bonus Book* has a range of discounts and special offers for volunteers.
- A range of fact sheets covering topics and issues relevant to the voluntary sector.



Volunteers receive recognition

- Outstanding South Australians and local business receive some of the State's most prestigious awards at the free *Volunteers Day* concert held annually on the Queen's Birthday public holiday weekend.
- Outstanding local volunteers are also honoured at *Community Cabinet* which takes place throughout metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia.



Innovative community engagement program wins Premier's Award

This year, the Office for Volunteers continued its partnership with the University of South Australia's (UniSA) School of Communication in an innovative program to produce a range of free promotional materials for not-for-profit community groups.

Through the Sustainable Online Community Engagement (SOCE) program, students work with community groups to help them build their own website, produce a range of promotional materials, plan and manage events and market their organisation and services.

Since 2001, the program has delivered more than 300 websites and other resources. The program also recently won the *Building Communities* category of the 2009 Premier's Awards for excellence in the South Australian public sector.

Further information

Download a free copy of the 2010 *Minister for Volunteers Report* by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au. For any queries, contact the Office for Volunteers by phoning 8463 4490.



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