



**volunteering sa&nt**

*Leading volunteering in South Australia  
and the Northern Territory*

## MEDIA RELEASE

9 February 2017

### **NO GUARANTEE OF FUTURE FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT SERVICES**

Volunteer support services in South Australia (SA) and the Northern Territory (NT) will be severely impacted by major changes to existing federal grant funding.

The Federal Government has announced that the primary source of funding through Strengthening Communities grants will be abolished and replaced with a model that makes funding for volunteer management much harder to access.

The new Strong and Resilient Communities grants program will see the current dedicated pool of funding open and divided amongst other services, giving no guarantee of future funding for volunteer support services.

Volunteering SA&NT CEO, Evelyn O'Loughlin said that to ensure effective, safe, productive and efficient volunteering it is imperative that there are resources available to support volunteer-involving organisations and volunteers.

"In SA, volunteering equates to over 107,000 jobs contributing \$4.89 billion annually which is well above many of the other major industries receiving Federal Government funding.

"For 30 years, volunteer support services have built the foundations for communities to lead, enable and build capacity to recruit and retain volunteers who are an integral part of the social capital of strong and resilient communities", Ms O'Loughlin said.

Volunteering SA&NT will join Volunteering Australia and other State peak bodies at an event at Parliament House next week providing the opportunity to raise concerns on the new grant program directly with politicians including Minister Christian Porter and Shadow Assistant Minister Louise Pratt.

*Volunteering SA&NT is a not-for-profit organisation and the peak body for volunteering, leading the sector in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Through key partnerships, we provide a range of services, support and resources to over 2,000 volunteer organisations and 600,000 volunteers which contributes to positive volunteering experiences and strengthening of communities.*

### **Media enquiries and interviews**

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