



volunteering sa&nt

*Leading volunteering in South Australia
and the Northern Territory*

MEDIA RELEASE

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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY #IVD2018

Today we celebrate volunteers. We thank and acknowledge every single person who collectively make up the global family of volunteers.

We commend their passion for changing the lives of others, for giving their time without reward and for their role in helping to build resilient communities.

The theme for International Volunteer Day is “Volunteers build resilient communities”, which is timely for two reports being released today.

The first report highlights the outstanding achievements of a group of young Aboriginal volunteers who have not only contributed to local communities, but nationally and internationally as well.

Over five years these 15 young volunteers worked in the remote community of Oodnadatta in South Australia on 10 week community development projects, and then went on to further volunteering, bringing benefits to the wider community.

Volunteering SA&NT CEO, Evelyn O’Loughlin said the research report explores the positive impact of the volunteering experience on the Aboriginal volunteers and its’ link with the contribution being made to communities when they returned home.

“The findings clearly demonstrate that their initial volunteering experience had a significant, meaningful and lasting impact on the personal and professional lives of these volunteers.

“It transformed the way they lived, influenced their career choices and styles of working, and set them on a life journey to improve community well-being”, Ms O’Loughlin said.

The Impact of the “Aboriginal Volunteer Program on Aboriginal Returned Volunteers 2018” report has resulted from a partnership between Volunteering SA&NT, its Aboriginal Reference Group, AVI and the community of Oodnadatta.

A second important report released today through the Volunteering Strategy for SA “Human Resources & Volunteer Management – A shared approach” looks at the relationship between Human Resource Management (HRM) and Volunteer Management (VM) and makes some key recommendations for organisations with both employees and volunteers.

The lines between volunteers and the paid workforce are often blurred. Organisations with a volunteer workforce need to acknowledge the importance of best practice volunteer management and provide relevant and ongoing training and support underpinned by the National Standards of Volunteer Involvement.

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Janet Stone, Independent Chair for the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia said it is important for organisations to understand the similarities and differences between HRM and VM.

“Implementing the recommendations in the report will ensure positive volunteering experiences for both volunteers and organisations”, said Ms Stone.

[For more information](#)

Aboriginal Volunteer Program on Aboriginal Returned Volunteers 2018 report
Human Resources & Volunteer Management – A shared approach report

Media enquiries and interviews

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Aboriginal Volunteer Program 2017 participants L-R Naomi Kei, Kasey Kelly and Jess Bloomfield