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VOLUNTEERING FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Today, all around the world volunteers are acknowledged and celebrated.

Thirty four years ago, the United Nations General Assembly (UN) mandated International Volunteer Day (IVD) in a bid to raise awareness of the important role of all volunteers.

In South Australia, we pay tribute and say thank you to the almost one million volunteers, as well as acknowledging the 3.6 million* throughout Australia and the global estimates of 970 million worldwide.

Four years ago, the UN developed 17 global goals [Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)], which are a blueprint in achieving a better and more sustainable future for all.

This year IVD, focuses on SDG 10 and the pursuit of equality – including inclusion – through volunteering and the theme for IVD '*Volunteer for an Inclusive Future*' highlights volunteers contributing to inclusion and helping to reduce inequality.

To ensure positive volunteering experiences and strengthening of communities in our State, Evelyn O'Loughlin, CEO Volunteering SA&NT said that by partnering with the Government of South Australia, Local Government Association and Business SA on the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia (VSSA) will help address the diverse and ongoing needs of the volunteering sector.

"A new '[Projects](#)' page, showcasing a range of local community capacity-building initiatives which are helping to achieve VSSA outcomes has been included on the updated VSSA website. Volunteer involving organisations can now utilise VSSA branding (under [Resources on the web](#)) to show their support of this world-first initiative." Ms O'Loughlin said.

Volunteering in the community provides opportunities for people, particularly those often excluded, to positively impact their own lives and make a difference in their community.

By volunteering their time, skills and passion through volunteering, communities can experience strengthened solidarity and inclusion and many people want to give back at special times during the year, like Christmas and New Year.

Volunteer involving organisations advertise a range of volunteering positions through Volunteering SA&NT which are available on their [website](#) or the FREE WeDo App.

Some positions currently available in the lead up to Christmas include working at corporate and other Christmas events, Christmas wrapping volunteers and op shop retail assistants..

Media enquiries and interviews

Evelyn O'Loughlin, CEO

M 0421 724 272

www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au

* 2016 ABS Census