

**MEDIA RELEASE** Monday 20 May 2019

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS - ONE IN A MILLION**

Almost one million South Australians volunteer, ranging from 18 to 85+ years of age and from all walks of life.

Interestingly, youth aged between 15-17 years of age volunteer the most, closely followed by 35-44 years old which negates the belief that volunteers are predominantly older people.

The profile of today's volunteer is that they are very busy, require flexibility and look for hi-tech ways to get the job done. They are looking to make a contribution – to make a difference.

Evelyn O'Loughlin, Volunteering SA&NT CEO said that over time, some of the motivators to volunteer have changed.

"A lot more people are volunteering to help improve job prospects by gaining new skills or trying work in a new field.

"Volunteering is a great way to express personal values and to support charities or not-for-profit organisations that people are aligned with.

"It continues to be a great way to help others, to feel good about yourself whilst enhancing social relationships", said Ms O'Loughlin.

Today marks the first day of National Volunteer Week, 30 years since its inception by Volunteering Australia to promote volunteering on a national level. From its initial recruitment focus, today it publicly recognises and celebrates the skills, passion and time that volunteers put in – with recruitment a natural by-product.

Volunteering SA&NT launches with a parade from the Torrens Parade Ground at 11 am to Victoria Square where volunteers can enjoy a free BBQ and entertainment from 12 noon. In its eighth year, participants, predominantly volunteers, have reached record crowds of over 1200.

Thanks are extended to sponsors, City of Adelaide and in-kind supporters Audio Pod, Ceravolo Orchards, DJ Nick Fahey, FruChocs (Robern Menz), Mt Lofty Springs, Rapid Relief Team and The Coffee Run.

Volunteering SA&NT leads the volunteering sector in South Australia and the Northern Territory and in their 37<sup>th</sup> year, they continue to work with individuals, organisations, businesses and communities to lead, advance, grow, promote and celebrate volunteering.

### **Media enquiries and interviews**

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