



MEDIA RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS – MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

There are around 70,000 Northern Territorians who every day, give up their time to volunteer. These people willingly help others out, without financial gain and make a valuable contribution in their community.

Monday 20 May 2019 marks the first day of National Volunteer Week, a week-long celebration recognising and acknowledging the difference volunteers make to the lives of others.

The theme of National Volunteer Week is 'making a world of difference' and the world would certainly be a different place if there weren't any volunteers.

Volunteering extends to every sector in society. From the arts, education, emergency services, sports, environment, heritage, health, aged care, disability support, community welfare and employment.

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 is 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.

National Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day) is on 22 May where the community is encouraged to show their appreciation to the dedicated work of State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers by wearing the colour orange, which is the colour worn by SES volunteers.

Volunteering NT are pleased to be part of two special events this week in celebration of volunteers everywhere, and both have seen an increase in attendance numbers.

On Wednesday, volunteers in Alice Springs will be recognised at a reception event at The Star of Alice. The event, in its third year will be hosted by Hon Dale Wakefield MLA, Northern Territory Minister for Territory Families.

On Thursday, the Chief Minister, Hon Michael Gunner MLA will host volunteers and guests in the Main Hall of Parliament House.

Volunteering NT is a division of Volunteering SA&NT which is a not-for-profit organisation and the peak body for volunteering, leading the sector in the Northern Territory. Volunteering NT connects people and organisations to create positive volunteering experiences. They work with volunteers and volunteer involving organisations across the Territory and services include advocacy, promotion, consultancy, training, mentoring and research.

Media enquiries and interviews

Evelyn O'Loughlin, CEO Volunteering SA&NT
T 8221 7177 M 0421 724 272
E evelyn.oloughlin@volunteeringsa-nt.org.au

Sue Rogers, Communications Manager
M 8221 7177 M 0415 111 201
E sue.rogers@volunteeringsa-nt.org.au