



# Valuing Volunteering

## Valuing Volunteering

News from the Volunteering Secretariat

Summer 2006

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### NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the Summer 2006 edition of Valuing Volunteering, the newsletter from the Volunteering Secretariat. We have recently shifted from printed to electronic format to improve our communication with the sector and to be able to provide you with better information and resources. Let us know what you think - we would like to hear from you.

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[Let us know what you think...](#)

### NEW MINISTER FOR VOLUNTEERING

On 3 February 2006, David Templeman was sworn in as Minister for Community Development, Seniors and Volunteering, Youth and Minister assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

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[Visit Minister Templeman's website...](#)

### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

The *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* came into effect on 1 January 2006. This new legislation requires volunteers who are involved in child related work to have a Working with Children check. The WWC criminal record assessment is designed specifically to assess only criminal history information that is specifically relevant to identifying risk of harm to children. Some volunteers who work in a variety of tasks within an organisation may need to have both a Working with Children check **and** a National

Police Check (e.g. for bus driving or managing finances) to comply with the new WWC legislation and their organisation's policy guidelines in relation to volunteer screening. Find out more...

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## THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY 2005

Around 150 volunteers joined Volunteering Minister Margaret Quirk MLA and the Volunteering Secretariat in celebrating Thank a Volunteer Day at the Perth Zoo on Monday 5 December 2005. Thank a Volunteer Day, known worldwide as International Volunteer Day, provides a unique opportunity for the WA community to acknowledge and celebrate the 429,000 plus volunteers who are making a real difference in our community.

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## THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY GRANTS PROGRAM

Night markets, sausage sizzles, family fun days and open air cinema screenings were just some of the activities held around the state as part of Thank a Volunteer Day on Monday, 5 December 2005. More than 60 metropolitan and regional community organisations, volunteer centres and local government authorities received State Government grants of up to \$500 each to help them stage events that recognised and celebrated the contribution volunteers make to our community.

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## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK – CHANGE YOUR WORLD... START NOW!

National Volunteer Week (NVW) will be held 15-21 May in 2006. National Volunteer Week is a great way to promote the value of volunteering to the community, and to focus on volunteer recruitment. Each year, Volunteering Australia adopts a different theme that is launched during the week and used for the following 12 months. Any organisation involving volunteers is welcome to participate in the week and use the theme to promote volunteering in their local area. This years NVW theme "Change your world... start now!" will focus on the impact volunteering has on people and upon the world.

Stay tuned for news about Volunteering Secretariat activities during NVW 2006!

### [Volunteering WA NVW Breakfast](#)

Volunteering WA will be hosting their annual NVW breakfast under the banner of this year's theme "Change your world... start now". The breakfast will be held on the morning of Monday 15 May at the Perth Convention Centre. Young Australian of the Year (WA) Simone McMahon will attend and speak on her many experiences as a volunteer.

What are you doing for NVW 2006? If you are holding an event that you would like promoted, let the Volunteering Secretariat know about it and we will include it on our website!

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[About NVW ...](#)

[Attend the Volunteering WA NVW Breakfast...](#)

[Promote your NVW event on the Volunteering Secretariat website...](#)

## 11<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERING 2006

The 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering in Melbourne is 7-10 March, 2006. This year's conference focuses specifically on the themes and issues relevant to volunteer involvement in major events in communities. The conference will also explore the three core values espoused by the Commonwealth Games Federation - Humanity, Equality and Destiny - and celebrate the unique contribution that volunteers make to international exchange and understanding.

As part of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering, Volunteering Australia is also hosting the inaugural Researchers' Symposium. Researchers in the field of volunteering will come together to share research ideas, practices and strategies for fostering increased research in this growing field.

Bringing together practitioners, academics and researchers, government policy-makers, business and volunteers the conference will provide a unique, national opportunity for information exchange, discussion and debate on volunteering.

Conference papers will be made available for interested readers on the Volunteering Australia website in the months ahead.

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## VRC FUNDING UPDATE

The 21 Volunteer Resource Centres (VRCs) throughout the state provide a referral service that links people interested in contributing with organisations needing volunteers. The Centres also provide support, training and information to organisations using volunteers in their area, promote volunteering and recognition of volunteers and act as a centre for information in the local community.

Sixteen of the Centres receive State Government service funding through the Department for Community Development, with all VRCs being supported as part of the VRC Alliance. Following an external review of the VRC Initiative, funding of the VRCs has been increased and continued for a further 12 months. This will enable the important community building work of the Centres to continue.

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[Contact your local VRC...](#)

## GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC SECTOR AGENCIES WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS

Over 70,000 volunteers contribute to the work of public sector agencies across the state. The *Guidelines for Public Sector Agencies Working with Volunteers* provide good practice guidelines and advice to agencies on how to involve and manage volunteers in the delivery of products and services to the WA community. The Guidelines were first developed in 1994 and updated in 2003. They are currently being reviewed in a joint partnership between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Volunteering Secretariat, with input from a reference group of key public sector agencies with volunteer programs. The new *Guidelines for Public Sector Agencies Working with Volunteers* will reflect current issues in managing volunteering in today's public sector. It is anticipated that the updated guidelines will be completed by mid 2006.

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[Current Guidelines...](#)

## SPOTLIGHT ON – VOLUNTEERING WA

Volunteering WA, Western Australia's peak non-government volunteer body and Volunteer Referral Centre has been busy...

YVolunteer

The YVolunteer program has launched a brand new website with information aimed at students, agencies and school coordinators of the program. YVolunteer gives young people the opportunity to learn about and contribute to their communities through volunteer work at a local agency whose needs and requests are matched to the participating school or group. The new site [www.yvolunteer.org.au](http://www.yvolunteer.org.au) is a useful base for the numerous schools and agencies involved to find information and advice or to share their experiences.

### The Settle Program

Volunteering WA's "The Settle Program" recruits, trains and supports volunteers to assist new refugee families with settling in, in Perth. After refugee families have arrived in Australia and have been housed and linked with essential services, they are offered the opportunity of the support and assistance of a Settle Program Volunteer. Refugee families are linked with suitable, trained volunteers who work with them to ensure they are able to adjust successfully to life in Australia by providing information regarding services and facilities available in Australia, facilitating communication and new language skills, and assisting with other adjustment priorities and issues.

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## NEW LOOK WEBSITE

Times are changing at the Volunteering Secretariat! We have recently revamped our look and our website now has a new colour scheme. We are also in the process of giving our website an extensive makeover. This is a huge task however we are looking forward to being able to deliver an up to date and comprehensive resource to the volunteering sector once finished. If you have any suggestions or ideas about what you would like to see on the Volunteering Secretariat's website, please let us know.

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## WE HAVE MOVED

The Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering bid farewell to the May Holman building at the end of November 2005. You will now find the Volunteering Secretariat located at:

Level 7, Dumas House

2 Havelock Street

WEST PERTH WA 6005

P: 08 6217 8500

F: 08 9481 3886

E: [volunteering@dcd.wa.gov.au](mailto:volunteering@dcd.wa.gov.au)

W: [www.community.wa.gov.au/Communities/Volunteers/](http://www.community.wa.gov.au/Communities/Volunteers/)

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[Contact us...](#)

## VOLUNTEERING SECRETARIAT STAFF

Margaret Dawkins – Manager, [Margaret.Dawkins@dcd.wa.gov.au](mailto:Margaret.Dawkins@dcd.wa.gov.au)

Catherine Doherty – Policy Officer, [Catherine.Doherty@dcd.wa.gov.au](mailto:Catherine.Doherty@dcd.wa.gov.au)

Cal Clee – Project Officer, [Cal.Clee@dcd.wa.gov.au](mailto:Cal.Clee@dcd.wa.gov.au)

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We are currently updating our database. If any of your details have changed, please let us know by clicking on the link below. Please make sure to include the following information in the body of your email:

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