



Valuing Volunteering

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News from the Volunteering Secretariat

Spring 2006

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 5 December 2006
is United Nations
International Volunteer Day &
Thank a Volunteer Day in
Western Australia

PROFILING VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTRES – ARMADALE VRC

The Armadale Volunteer Resource Service (AVRS) has been operating for three years and is funded by the Department for Community Development (DCD) and the City of Armadale (CoA). The AVRS works is to place potential volunteers by best matching their skills and interests to the volunteering opportunities registered not for profit organisations.

When the Service commenced we were approximately 2kms from the Armadale CBD and not on a transport route, making it very difficult for people to access our service. Approximately six months later, we moved into the CoA administration building. This was a great move, giving members of the community easy access by train and bus. However, due to the City's growth over the years, office space was at a premium. As our service was part-time we were required to share our work stations with other staff. A meeting room had to be booked when members of the community wanted to come in and find out about volunteering. Word also spread about our service and it wasn't long before we started to receive enquiries from people living in the Gosnells and Serpentine/Jarrahdale areas. We also had not for profit organisations from those areas contact us asking if they could register. I decided that we should approach the City of Gosnells (CoG) and let them know we were receiving enquiries. Whilst we were happy to continue to provide the service, we were unable to actively promote our service in Gosnells due to a lack of resources. The CoG was keen for their community to also have such a valuable service. Discussions started to take place and we have just signed a service agreement to provide an outreach service to their community.

June 2005 what a great year for this service. The CoA Community Services Department (of which the AVRS is a part) moved into new office space and with this came our own office. The office is big enough to undertake

interviews with potential volunteers, so whilst we encourage appointments we are also able to see people who just call in.

With continued funding from both DCD and CoA we have taken on a part-time administration assistant who is currently loading all our member agencies and volunteer positions on to VIKTOR (a software package, designed by Volunteering WA). Our service agreement with CoG has given us the opportunity to advertise for another person to be employed for 16 hours a week to provide an outreach service. With VIKTOR and our laptop, we will be able to take our service to various community groups across Armadale and Gosnells, such as CaLD, Indigenous and youth as well as having our existing permanent site at Armadale and one at the CoG Knowledge Centre. We will also be able to provide a brief presentation, promoting volunteering and the benefits. We have a community group in Serpentine/Jarrahdale who are registered with our service and are currently building a new Community Centre. They have already asked if we would be able to promote volunteering there.

Pauline Franklin

Coordinator, Armadale Volunteer Resource Service



Pauline Franklin and Wendy Stanley
Armadale Volunteer Resource Service

Any agencies operating in the Armadale, Gosnells, Serpentine or Jarrahdale areas interested in obtaining volunteers can register with AVRS at no cost.

Volunteer Resource Centres

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VOLUNTEER SUCCESS STORIES

Dear Readers

I would like to share with you a special good news story about one of our volunteers. A couple of weeks ago I spent nearly 1 ½ hours with a new volunteer by the name of David. He had grown up in England, in an extremely tough area and he had been physically abused and eventually lived on the streets at a relatively young age.

David pulled away from this way of life and eventually became a guitarist in a band. He married and settled down and had a family before settling in Australia and starting a new life. However, David has suffered with serious depression for many years. David and his wife live in the Armadale area and other than his immediate family and his case worker he doesn't see or speak to anyone and the reason he put down for volunteering was "I am lonely".

David came to see me today with his wife, a lovely lady who must have gone through so much pain seeing her husband of all those years go through this. They came in to thank the AVRS for taking the time with him and referring him onto an aged care hostel. I had heard that when David was a tradesperson he had loved to go to older people's homes, he enjoyed listening to their stories and found them warm and caring. I also thought his music talents may be able to be used, even though he told me he hadn't had the inclination to pick up his guitar for many years.

David's wife said, smiling, that he has almost got blisters on his fingers as he had been playing again, getting ready for the session he has promised the seniors. David also said that he had gone round and said hello to everyone living in the home on his first visit and that he had met an elderly gentleman, they both had a few laughs and a good chin wag.

David said to me "If I can go and work somewhere like that and know that I have made a difference to one person, it is all worth while" I told him that that is how I felt, if I am able to assist someone like you in making a difference, my job is worthwhile.

Story submitted by:
Pauline Franklin
Coordinator, Armadale Volunteer Resource Service

If you have a volunteer success story you would like to share please [email us](#).

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2006

For news on National Volunteer Week activities click on the links below:

- [What is National Volunteer Week?](#)
- [National Volunteer Week 2006 Breakfast Launch](#)
- [The Volunteering Secretariat Volunteer](#)
- [Events in WA](#)

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2006 THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY CELEBRATION GRANTS PROGRAM

As part of **Thank a Volunteer Day** celebrations on 5 December each year, the State Government supports local communities with a small grants program. The Thank a Volunteer Day Celebration Grants Program will open soon. Keep an eye out on our website for further updates.

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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY/THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY

For information on **2006 Thank a Volunteer Day** initiatives and new promotional material available for downloading, please [visit our website](#).

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NEW LOOK CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

If you would like to thank your dedicated, hardworking volunteers for their contribution and commitment to your organisation, you may like to consider presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Volunteering Secretariat is pleased to offer five brand new colour **Certificates of Appreciation** to choose from in 2006, to complement the focus of your organisation or volunteer group.

Consider presenting the **Certificate of Appreciation** to volunteers as part of Thank a Volunteer Day, 5 December each year, or at events during National Volunteer Week in May. Your volunteers will be sure to appreciate this special acknowledgement.

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NEW WACOSS PROGRAM: WA VOLUNTEERING ESSENTIALS (WAVE)

If you are a small organisation run mainly by volunteers with perhaps a few paid staff with never enough time to do all the things you need to do, WAVE may be just the resource and information program you are looking for.

With funding from the Volunteering Secretariat and with guidance and resource input from a steering group comprising Volunteering WA, the Volunteer Resource Centre Alliance and Scouts WA, WACOSS has built upon its successful *EmployRight* program to add a particular volunteering perspective. Designed as a condensed resource program outlining the most critical information a busy paid or unpaid person running a community organisation needs to now to recruit, screen, protect and acknowledge volunteers, be they Board or service delivery volunteers, this program will bring together a range of relevant resources in an accessible and digestible format.

WAVE will provide a series of free one day training sessions to people who find themselves working with volunteers as one part of their work. As with *Employright* it will cover such topics as effective recruitment and screening including police checks, equal opportunity legislation, insurance, occupational health and safety issues, confidentiality and discontinuing volunteer involvement.

The training is supported by a resource manual and website containing resource information that can be drawn upon at any time with links to an even wider range of resources. There will also be a telephone helpline to assist with particular questions or provide referrals to specialists for advice.

If your organisation has a resource, publication or provides a service that is free – or very low costs that you think could be listed on the website as a resource for other organisations or to register your interest in participating in the WAVE program please email Jackie Newbigin at WACOSS – jackie@wacoss.org.au.

More details about the WAVE PROGRAM, training dates and how to get involved will be posted on the Volunteering Secretariat, WACOSS and VWA websites in the weeks to come.

Source: WACOSS Weekly Update – 22 August 2006

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[WACOSS Website](#)

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NATIONAL POLICE CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

The Volunteering Secretariat, together with the Western Australian Police, runs a program enabling eligible Western Australian volunteers and volunteering organisations to receive a National Police Check at a reduced fee of \$9.50 per person checked. ***Please note: As of 1 July 2006, price per check is \$9.50.***

A National Police Check is not a National Police Certificate and does not list details of any convictions – only whether a criminal or traffic record exists. It is not a Working with Children Check and cannot be substituted. 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 to comply with the new WWC legislation and their organisation's policy guidelines in relation to volunteer screening.

The Volunteering Secretariat will be distributing flyers shortly to organisations to increase awareness of this valuable program. We encourage new registrations.

Organisations requiring a National Police Check for their volunteers must register with the Volunteering Secretariat. You can do so by accessing the National Police Check for Volunteers Program Information Package, Registration Form and Volunteer Consent Form on our website.

In addition the Program has recently been made available to State Government volunteering programs. Program Coordinators are encouraged to register.

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GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR AND VOLUNTEER REVIEW

The Volunteering Secretariat, in conjunction with an across Government Reference Group and other Public Sector Agencies, has recently undertaken a review of the Guidelines for Successful Partnerships Between Public Sector Agencies and Volunteers. The Guidelines for Public Sector Agencies Working with Volunteers provide good practice guidelines and advice to agencies on how to improve and manage volunteers in the delivery of products and services to the WA community. Once finalised, the Guidelines will be made available on the Volunteering Secretariat's website. Watch this space!

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SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In 1985, 5 December was declared as International Volunteer Day by the United Nations General Assembly. In Australia, International Volunteer Day has been designated as a day of recognition of volunteer involvement, a day in which organisations can thank their volunteer staff.

This year Volunteering Western Australia (VWA) is organising a number of events in order to generate awareness in the local community of the value of work that is being done by volunteers and also to recruit new volunteers. Some of the activities planned include: the formation of a large human 'V' in Langley Park; The Difference Awards and Ceremony plus a variety of promotional activities and displays including a major prize to be drawn in Forrest Chase at lunchtime, 5 December.

Calling all Volunteers!

VWA is seeking volunteers to participate in the formation of a human 'V' in Langley Park on Tuesday, 5 December 2006. If you are interested in being part of this exciting event on Thank a Volunteer Day contact Sascha Stone on (08) 9482 4333 or email [Volunteering WA](#) for further information.

The Difference Awards

The Difference Awards were established in 1992 by VWA. The awards aim to recognise the positive differences volunteers and volunteer programs are making in the community. If you would like further information on this year's Difference Awards nomination process telephone Sascha Stone on (08) 9482 4333 or email [Volunteering WA](#).

Enhancing Access Project Launch

Volunteering WA has received funding from the Disability Services Commission to develop the new Enhancing Access project which was launched on August 15 prior to the Volunteering WA AGM.

The state-wide project will target and support volunteers who work with people with disabilities, community groups that can include people with disabilities in their activities and adults with disabilities and their families.

Janette Spencer has been appointed Manager of the Project which will work on strategies to enhance the access of people with disabilities to be volunteers and support agencies to manage such volunteers.

The Hon Adele Farina MLC, representing the Minister Tony McRae MLA, the Minister for Disability Services, launched the project with a cheque presentation to Volunteering WA.

The Project will be evaluated with a view to developing into an on-going program within Volunteering WA.

The project will ensure that good practices for including people with disabilities are incorporated into volunteer-involving organisations and that these organisations will be supported by Volunteering WA.

For further information contact Volunteering WA on 9482 4333.

New ARC project addresses rural problems

The Assisting Rural Communities (ARC) project, an initiative of Volunteering WA with support from the Volunteering Secretariat, has been established to address the volunteer shortage suffered in many Western Australian towns.

Many regional communities do not have the financial resources needed to maintain and develop their services and facilities due to a steady decline in their population.

The ARC project is aimed at helping communities around Western Australia become skilled at managing their resources by recruiting volunteers from the pool of travellers who move to these rural communities for lengthy periods of time.

The travellers can become de facto members of the community helping out emergency response services, community services and in the planning and conduct of events and projects such as the development of a nature lookout or restoration of a historical site.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the program can contact Elizabeth on 9482 4333 or at, elizabeth@volunteer.org.au.

Settle Program

The Settle Program provides volunteer assistance to recently arrived refugee families living in Perth's northern suburbs.

The program encourages volunteers to share basic life skills such as using public transport, banking and shopping.

With this help, refugee families become aware of social and community contacts and groups and are able to contact emergency departments and other important people.

Further to this, volunteers help the families with planning and attending medical and dental appointments and utilising the services of Centrelink.

The Settle Program upholds the philosophy that volunteers do things with the family rather than for the family. This means that after a certain amount of time families will have developed the skills to perform tasks such as using public transport and doing grocery shopping unaided.

Training, support and travel reimbursement are provided for volunteers in the Settle Program.

Information sessions are held each Thursday morning 10:30am to 12:00pm and the first Tuesday evening of each month 5:30pm to 7:00pm at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street West Perth. Bookings are essential.

The Settle program is funded by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs via the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre. For further information contact Fran or Lynne on 08 9482 4333 or by email at fran@volunteer.org.au.

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VOLUNTEERING SECRETARIAT'S WEBSITE UPDATES

Have you visited our website lately? The What's New and What's On sections on the homepage of the Volunteering Secretariat website feature regularly updated information about activities, initiatives, events and funding opportunities relevant to the volunteering community. Why not have a look? We are always looking for news to include on our site so if you have information you think we should know about, please let us know!

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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. Find out more...

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[Working with Children Screening Unit](#)

VOLUNTEERING SECRETARIAT STAFF

Margaret Dawkins – Director

Claire White – Policy Officer

Cal Clee – Project Officer

Lyn Pearce – Admin Officer

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