$27,000 FOR 2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Citizenship and Communities Minister Victor Dominello has pledged an additional $12,000 in State Government funding for the 2011 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Mr Dominello, who has responsibility for the Volunteering portfolio, will officially open nominations for the Awards on Monday to mark the start of National Volunteer Week which runs from May 9 - 15.

“I am delighted that this year $27,000 in NSW Government funding has been provided for the annual awards run by the Centre for Volunteering,” Mr Dominello said.

“I congratulate the Centre for Volunteering for its ongoing commitment to recognising volunteers and promoting their efforts through this important awards program.

“The O’Farrell Government has provided this one-off funding boost for a special award marking the 10th anniversary of the United Nation’s International Year of the Volunteer (IYV+10).

“In addition to existing categories, this year there is a one-off category for the IYV+10 Award for Volunteer Management. This award will help highlight a sometimes under-acknowledged, but vitally important aspect of volunteering.

“The NSW Volunteer of the Year Award recognises the volunteers across NSW, and I encourage people across the State to nominate volunteers that make a difference in their community for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Awards.

“Over the past three years more than 900 nominations in individual and team categories have been received. I would like to see the number of nominations grow and the awards even more strongly reflect the cultural and age diversity of volunteering in our communities,” Mr Dominello said.

In addition to the main category of Volunteer of the Year, special awards are made for Youth, Senior, Corporate and Team Volunteers of the Year.

Nominations for the 2011 Awards close on 30 August. Regional awards will be presented at local ceremonies in October and November and winners comprise the finalists from which overall State winners are selected. State-wide winners will be named at a ceremony close to the United Nations’ declared International Volunteer Day on December 5, 2011. For further information visit the Centre for Volunteering’s website at www.volunteering.com.au

Media contact: Peter Shmigel 0419 163 668