Local volunteers get a kick start on path to employment

The NSW Government will provide $20,000 in seed funding to develop a pilot project that helps volunteers gain recognition for their experience, access relevant training and find local jobs.

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello said the new initiative, called ‘Bathurst Grows’, brings together an alliance of local organisations, community resources and the agriculture sector.

“Volunteer participants will have access to on-the-job training and skill development which will lead to qualifications and employment in local agriculture,” Mr Dominello said.

“For instance, a local farmer who wants to attract workers can approach the Volunteer Pathways Alliance group, who can link them to potential employees.

“The farmer acts as a mentor and educator to volunteers as a way of building relationships that can lead to further local employment opportunities.

“This is an excellent way to work collaboratively to develop volunteers’ potential by providing training and employment in Bathurst,” Mr Dominello said.

The organisations behind the pilot project include:

- Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre;
- Volunteering Central West;
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- VERTO - a local job network and registered training organisation;
- SkillSet - formerly Central West Group Apprentices, one of Australia’s largest Group Training Organisations;
- The Flannery Centre - through this centre, Skillset offers courses, services and information around living and working sustainably; and
- The Office of Communities.

The Volunteer Pathways Alliance and the Office of Communities will hold a development day on Wednesday 18 July in Bathurst to develop the project further and identify ways for the community and organisations to participate.

For further details of the day, please contact Simon Watts, Volunteering Senior Manager at the Office of Communities on 0407 384 671.