MORE TRAINING PLACES FOR MANAGERS OF VOLUNTEERS

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello announced today that 200 people who manage volunteers can now access subsidised training as part of the NSW Government’s drive to improve the rights and recognition of volunteers.

Mr Dominello, who has responsibility for volunteering, said the government is increasing its support of volunteer management training places in response to its Recognition of the Rights of Volunteers report released today.

“In response to the report’s finding that volunteers need better management, 100 managers in NSW volunteer organisations will be provided with the subsidised specialist training, called Way2Go,” he said.

“In addition, an extra 100 subsidised places will be made available for the Certificate IV in Volunteer Program Coordination course in 2013.”

The Recognition of the Rights of Volunteers report is based on the views of close to 3,000 volunteers who took part in community consultations. It contains principles to encourage greater community understanding and formal recognition of the rights of volunteers and how they should be treated.

“With extra sessions available in 10 locations, the Way2Go Volunteer Management Training helps managers to handle common issues in the management of volunteers.

“Volunteers contribute a vital service to our society and it’s essential they are treated with fairness, respect and dignity and their rights are recognised.”

The Office of Communities has also worked with risk management specialists to develop Risk Management for Not-for-Profit Organisations – a free written resource to help organisations develop a risk management framework and policy.

This online guide contains a step-by-step approach to working through individual issues, plus examples and templates that can be adapted to suit the needs of organisations.

“There are more than 2 million volunteers in NSW who contribute over 240 million hours of voluntary work each year, estimated to be worth $5 billion,” Mr Dominello said.

“Together, this new investment in training for volunteer managers and the new risk management tool provide immediate and strong support for improving volunteer management and reinforcing the sustainability of the sector.”

Risk Management for Not-for-Profit Organisations is now available on the NSW Government volunteering website at www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au.

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