MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 12 June, 2013

VOLUNTEER FAIRNESS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello and member for Dubbo Troy Grant, today joined with the Dubbo Base of one of Australia’s most iconic not-for-profit organisations, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), to promote recognition and fairness for volunteers.

Mr Dominello and Mr Grant presented a certificate to the RFDS South Eastern (SE) Section for signing the NSW Government’s new Statement of Principles for the Recognition of Volunteer Rights.

“Volunteers might work for free but their contributions are priceless – as I’m sure anyone who has benefited from the RFDS knows well. The local RFDS volunteers play a vital role by helping raise the large amount of funds necessary to sustain this life-saving service in western and north western NSW,” Mr Dominello said.

“The NSW Government developed the Statement of Principles to promote best practice in volunteer management.”

The statement outlines key principles such as being respectful, providing volunteers with training and professional development and giving them the opportunity to resolve disputes with respect and dignity. Other organisations that have signed the Statement of Principles include Western Plains Zoo, St John NSW and YWCA NSW.

“By signing up to the Statement of Principles, organisations can send a clear signal to current and potential volunteers that their contributions will be valued and they will be treated with fairness. Volunteers create stronger individuals and a stronger society,” Mr Grant said.

RFDS SE Section Vice President Joan Treweeke said: “We are delighted to adopt the Statement of Principles for the Recognition of Volunteer Rights.

“We value and acknowledge the role of volunteers, not just for the RFDS but in the wider community. The RFDS SE relies on volunteers across many aspects of our Service, from helping run Open days or community fundraising to support our work.

“In Dubbo we are lucky to have a wonderful Support Group who manage and run the Education Centre and Shop, as well raising more than $600,000 towards the development and re-opening of the Dubbo Base and its new education centre in 2011. This group of volunteers really are essential to the continued operation of the Base.”

Other organisations that would like to sign up to follow the Statement of Principles can get more information from www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au.

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Statement of Principles for the Recognition of Volunteer Rights

- This organisation demonstrates a commitment to best practice in volunteer management and all our people respect and support this commitment.

- Our volunteers are involved in the life of the organisation and are included in decisions that affect them.

- This organisation provides volunteers with clarity about their roles and is clear about expectations and policies that impact on their roles.

- Our volunteers respect the roles of everyone in the organisation.

- This organisation recognises and celebrates the contribution of volunteers.

- Our volunteers are provided with training and professional development for their roles.

- This organisation provides all our people with the opportunity to resolve disputes with respect and dignity.