MEDIA RELEASE
Friday, 5 December 2014

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello will today announce the winner of the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award at a ceremony at the Kirribilli Club in Sydney.

The Centre for Volunteering Awards, which are sponsored by the NSW Government and ClubsNSW, will see more than 100 finalists from across the State vying for eight awards.

The Awards include category winners for: overall, student, youth, adult, senior, team, excellence in volunteer management, corporate individual and corporate team awards.

Mr Dominello, the Minister responsible for Volunteering and Patron of the Awards, will join NSW Volunteer of Year Awards Ambassador Paula Duncan AM and Master of Ceremonies Adam Spencer.

“Today, to mark International Volunteer Day, we will honour some extraordinary people who, through volunteering, have been able to enrich the lives of others in their communities,” Mr Dominello said.

“International Volunteer Day was established by the United Nations in 1985 to provide an opportunity to highlight and honour the contribution made to communities by volunteer organisations and individuals.

“There are some amazing stories among the finalists - from helping victims of child sexual abuse tell their stories to Police, to establishing a program to help new migrant children learn English, to a Girl Guides leader representing Australia at the UN to tackle domestic violence.

“In many ways volunteers are the glue that binds our local communities together and while their contribution cannot be measured in monetary terms alone, we know that NSW volunteers contribute $5 billion to our economy and 250 million hours of service each year.

“In less than three years the NSW Government has successfully implemented the first ever NSW Volunteering Strategy and recently we expanded our Timebanking program into 20 new communities, attracting many new members who have never previously volunteered.

“More than 5,000 people have exchanged 16,000 hours of support since the launch of Timebanking in October 2012 and it is now available in 70 communities across NSW.

“On behalf of the NSW Government I sincerely thank and congratulate all of today’s nominees as well as all volunteers across NSW for their outstanding and generous efforts.”

The Centre for Volunteering’s Chief Executive Officer Gemma Rygate said the annual awards were the State’s way of recognising the outstanding work of volunteers.
“We received a record 500 nominations this year and today’s State event, held on International Volunteer Day, is the culmination of 20 regional award ceremonies and two rounds of judging,” Ms Rygate said.


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