



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

\$21 million to support community volunteers

Non-profit organisations, who are supported by volunteers, in South Australia can apply for Australian Government grants of up to \$5,000 to purchase equipment and cover the cost of petrol.

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth, welcomed the announcement of the grants round by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens.

“These grants are a great way for the government to recognise and directly support volunteers who selflessly give up their time to help people in need,” Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth said.

\$21 million will be distributed across Australia in the 2009 round of volunteer grants, supporting more than 7000 organisations and 900,000 volunteers.

“The Australian Government values the enormous contribution volunteers make in our community and this funding will ease the financial pressure on non-profit organisations and volunteers,” Ms Rishworth said.

Organisations will receive grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to purchase equipment, including computers, tools, air conditioners and sporting equipment, and also help with fuel costs.

“Grants can be used to purchase equipment or to help cover volunteers’ fuel costs incurred when carrying out their volunteering activities,” Ms Rishworth said.

In South Australia 459 organisations received funding under last year’s Volunteer Grants program.

Last year, the Mundoo Group of the Country Fire Service received \$30,000 to install fridges onboard the fire trucks. The fridges have given volunteer fire fighters access to cool lunches and drinks which have helped boost morale during long periods of arduous work.

Ms Macklin said volunteers play a crucial role in our communities.

“They are out in their local communities every day, helping the vulnerable, disadvantaged, and those who have hit hard times,” Ms Macklin said.

Senator Stephens said the Government recognised the commitment and dedication of the non-profit sector.

“Volunteers add to the richness of our community life through their work in the arts, culture, sport and environment sectors,” Senator Stephens said.

Applications are open for six weeks from Friday 14 August to 25 September 2009.

For more information on the 2009 Volunteer Grants program, including an online application form, please visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/funding/Pages/volunteer_grant09.aspx