



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP is urging all locals to join in celebrations during National Volunteer Week, 12 to 18 May.

The theme for this year's National Volunteer Week is "*volunteers change our world.*"

"Every day hard working volunteers change our world here in Australia, and all over the world," Amanda said.

"They are the glue that keeps our societies going.

Member for Kingston has experienced first hand the invaluable contribution that volunteers are making to the community in Kingston when visiting a number of community organisations.

"Every year 19,504 people volunteer their time for the benefit of the community in Kingston. Amanda said.

"Across our nation, its volunteers that protect our homes from bushfires, deliver meals on wheels, raise money for good local causes, organise local sports and youth groups, and many other positive activities."

Every year, Australians give up 8 million hours of their time to volunteer, and the top reason for volunteering is "wanting to help others or the community"¹.

"While issues like poverty and disadvantage divide our communities, volunteering unites us," said Amanda.

"Those who volunteer create connections and social relationships with those around them, and research has found volunteering has great health benefits for those involved.

"At the recent *2020 Summit*, there was an overwhelming call to celebrate and promote our volunteers, and National Volunteer Week is a great way of doing this," Amanda said.

¹ ABS *Voluntary Work, Australia Survey* (2006)

The Rudd Labor Government is committed to supporting and sponsoring voluntary efforts, which is central to its Social Inclusion Agenda.

As of July 1, the Government's revamped and improved Volunteer Grants Program will begin, making funds available to another 6000 organisations to help them support their volunteers.

"We want to make sure Australia fosters a nurturing and innovative environment for volunteer organisations, to encourage new ways of volunteering," said Amanda said.

"Volunteering gives all of us a chance to give something back, underpinning community wellbeing and fostering strong, inclusive communities.

"Congratulations to all of our volunteers, and keep up the important work of changing our world!"

For more information about National Volunteer Week, go to:

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

For further information contact Amanda Rishworth MP **Phone** (08) 8186 2588
232 Main South Road, Morphett Vale 5162 **Email** Amanda.Rishworth.MP@aph.gov.au