

Peter Primrose MLC

Minister for Small Business,
Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth,
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs



Thursday, March 11, 2010

NSW welcomes Commonwealth volunteering grants

The NSW Minister for Volunteering, Peter Primrose, has welcomed today's announcement that the Commonwealth will deliver \$21 million worth of one-off grants to support Australia's volunteer organisations.

Mr Primrose has encouraged volunteer organisations in NSW to apply for the grants, which range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

"I am always inspired by the invaluable contribution that our volunteers make to the social fabric of our State, representing the backbone of many sporting, cultural, artistic, environmental and community organisations," Mr Primrose said.

"But we know that some volunteer organisations often struggle to attract funding, so these grants will be incredibly useful to cover their costs."

"It's heartening that the Rudd Government, like us, recognises the value of volunteers and the contribution they make to local communities."

The ABS estimates that there are the approximately 1.7 million volunteers in NSW who donate more than 241 million hours of voluntary work to the community.

The NSW Government's State Plan sets a target of increasing the proportion of the total community involved in volunteering by 10 per cent by 2016.

Groups can apply for *Volunteer Grants 2010* to help contribute to the costs of training for volunteers, such as first aid or cultural awareness training, cover fuel costs and purchase equipment.

Last year, 2,234 organisations in NSW received a total of \$7.07 million in grants. In total, 6,700 groups across Australia received grants in 2009.

Application forms and more information on the Commonwealth grants are available at www.fahcsia.gov.au or by calling 1800 183 374. Applications close on Friday April 16.

For more information on NSW Government volunteering initiatives, including the *Guide to Grants*, visit: www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au