

MEDIA RELEASE



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2011 MEDIA ALERT 16th March 2011

National Volunteer Week (NVW) will be held from 9th to 15th May. This is the week where all of Australia is called upon to recognise our volunteers and thank them for their efforts.

NVW is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer each year.

Australia's volunteers are essential to society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers. Australian volunteers contribute more than 700 million hours of community service to so many areas of society, including community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports. NVW provides a platform to pay tribute to these volunteers who donate their time and energy to help others. The theme for NVW 2011 is:

Inspiring the Volunteer in You

The theme is the same used by United Nations International Year of the Volunteer plus 10 (IYV+10). It brings volunteering to the forefront and provides a focussed agenda for the volunteer sector. The theme is inspirational and aims to encourage more people to volunteer.

Should you wish to profile volunteering during NVW please contact Volunteering Australia or your State/Territory Centre for assistance in identifying a suitable story.

Further details on NVW, including interesting volunteering facts and figures, can be found on the NVW website at www.nationalvolunteerweek.com.au

Volunteering Australia recognises and thanks our NVW sponsors – NAB and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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What is Volunteering Australia?

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. Our role is to represent the diverse views and needs of the volunteer movement while promoting the activity of volunteering as one of enduring social, cultural and economic value.