

Media release

Award recipients announced at
Volunteering Victoria 2017 State Awards

Volunteering Victoria announced seven recipients at its annual **State Awards** held in Queen's Hall at State Parliament House on Wednesday 22 November 2017.

The Volunteering Victoria State Awards showcase the significant and enduring impact Victoria's leaders of volunteers, volunteering programs and volunteer involving organisations have on building a vibrant and strong volunteering community.

Nominations were once again of a high calibre and covered a diverse breadth of volunteering programs and volunteer involving organisations across the state, as well as highlighting some remarkable leaders of volunteers.

"We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of all the nominees and congratulate the finalists and recipients in these, our third State Awards.

As the State's peak body, Volunteering Victoria proudly honours the dedicated work by these volunteer managers and volunteering-involving organisations in the delivery of volunteering programs that demonstrate the pinnacle of excellence and innovation in the sector," Roz Wollmering, Interim CEO, Volunteering Victoria.

In 2016, the total value of volunteering was estimated to contribute between \$24.9 and \$31 billion to the Victorian economy, reflecting the power of volunteering. It supports all facets of our community including health, community services, sport, emergency services, arts and culture, tourism, multicultural communities, youth, ageing and disability services and is critical to building community resilience and social cohesion and connectedness.

Roz Wollmering gratefully thanked sponsors and supporters - SEEK Volunteer and the Victorian State Government through the Department of Health and Human Services - for making these awards possible. She acknowledged the support of the Parliament of Victoria, in particular The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council and The Hon. Colin Brooks MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Notable guests included The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council and the Master of Ceremonies for the State Awards; Gabrielle Williams, Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers. Parliamentary Secretary for Health; Cindy McLeish, Shadow Assistant Minister for Environment, Communities and Volunteers; Colleen Hartland, Member of the Legislative Council, Representative of the Victorian Greens; Jennifer Pascoe Department of Health and Human Services; Katrina Hudson, Manager Seek Volunteer ANZ; Rebecca Miller, Head of SEEK Volunteer ANZ; Paul Wheelton AM and Angela Wheelton, Wheelton Philanthropy and the Volunteering Victoria Board of Directors.

2017 VOLUNTEERING VICTORIA STATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

EXCELLENCE AWARD

Awarded to an **individual manager or leader of volunteers** or a **Volunteer Involving Organisation** for demonstrating a commitment to going beyond best practice volunteer management.

RECIPIENT: Very Special Kids

INCLUSION AWARD

Awarded to a **Volunteering Program** that achieves the inclusion of individuals or groups who are often excluded from the mainstream or traditional volunteering. Inclusion can be with respect to any groups within society that characteristically experience disadvantage, isolation or discrimination, including but not restricted to CALD communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disability, the aged, gender or sexual identity groups, recent migrants and refugees.

RECIPIENT: Afghan and Tamil Volunteers, enliven

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING AWARD

Awarded to an organisation that delivers a specific, significant, sustained and successful benefit to one or more volunteer involving organisation through its employee volunteering program. The volunteering contribution may include general or skilled volunteering including pro-bono work.

RECIPIENT: Employee Volunteer Program, AIA

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awarded to a **researcher and / or a practitioner** who make significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge or research regarding volunteering, in particular (but not limited to) volunteering leadership and management

RECIPIENT: Dr. Pam Kappelides, La Trobe University

INNOVATION AWARD

Awarded to a **Volunteer Involving Organisation** for an innovative, unique volunteering program or model that engages volunteers, and makes a significant contribution to the work of the volunteer involving organisation, improving its ability to achieve its purpose and objectives, and to deliver positive outcomes.

RECIPIENT: Human Rights Law Program Fast Track Clinics, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded to a paid or unpaid leader or manager of volunteers for long-standing, distinguished and meritorious service to the volunteering sector in a leadership role over at least seven years.

RECIPIENTS: Tehree Gordon, Jirrahlinga Koala and Wildlife Sanctuary **AND**
Hazel Maynard, Volunteering Victoria

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING VICTORIA

Volunteering Victoria is the state peak body for volunteering. Our vision is for resilient communities and empowered and active citizens through volunteering.

Though our dynamic and transformative leadership, we work to promote and build a vibrant, prosperous and strong volunteering community that is inclusive, respected and sustainable.

Volunteering Victoria is a member-based organisation, supported by a dedicated and highly professional team of staff and volunteers. From broad sectors such as social services, health, sport, culture, emergency services and local government, our membership reflects the diversity of people and organisations that work with and support volunteers in our community.

ENDS



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