

Media release

Distributed: 5 December 2014

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY - 5 DECEMBER 2014

New State Awards to embrace volunteer managers and organisations

Today, on International Volunteer Day 2014, Volunteering Victoria announced new annual State Awards, to be awarded on International Volunteer Managers Day in November 2015.

The Awards will include all key facets of volunteer management aiming to showcase the commitment and impact of Victoria's volunteer programs, volunteer managers and volunteer involving organisations.

"To date, Awards in the area of volunteering have targeted the amazing work of individual volunteers, but we want to showcase the extraordinary infrastructure in our state that makes volunteering possible," said Sue Noble, CEO, Volunteering Victoria.

The nomination process will be open to the public and will include the following categories:

1. **Innovation Award:** For an innovative, unique volunteering program/model that engages volunteers and makes a significant contribution to volunteer involving organisations and improves their ability to respond to social challenges.
2. **Excellence Award:** For demonstrating best practice in the *management of volunteers* and the delivery of programs by those volunteers
3. **Inclusion Award:** For a *volunteer program* that encourages/achieves the inclusion of individuals or groups of volunteers who are often excluded from the mainstream
4. **Impact Award:** For a *volunteer program or activity* that has made a positive, measurable and sustainable social and/or economic impact to the community/cause/individuals who are supported by the program.
5. **Thought leadership Award:** For significant advancement in knowledge and research in volunteering.
6. **Corporate Award:** For a company that has had a significant impact on a volunteer involving organisation through its employee volunteering program.

Our Awards will complement the many community based Award and recognition events that occur around Victoria, across different sectors, and of course the Victorian *Premier's Volunteer Awards*, which recognise the achievement of individual volunteers," said Ms Noble.

"I look forward to announcing our judging panels which will be made up of those experienced in the different forms of volunteering and working with volunteering in different sectors, such as sport, community and social services, health, arts and culture, environment, education and emergency services.

“We hope to engage Victorians involved with new and innovative volunteer programs, as well as those who have worked with programs which have stood the test of time. We want to include those who are researching and studying the way volunteering is evolving in our state, and recognise good corporate citizens who support their people to volunteer,” Ms Noble explained.

Sponsors and partners will work with the peak body to shape the Awards over the coming year.

“Volunteering Victoria is very excited about working with our members, sponsors and partners to create a highlight event in the volunteering calendar in our State,” Ms Noble concluded.

Key dates:

- Nominations open during National Volunteer Week - 11 - 17 May 2015
- Nominations close – 30 September 2015
- Awards Ceremony - International Volunteer Managers Day – 5 November 2015

Media inquiries:

Alicia Patterson, Marketing & Communications Manager
03 8327 8503 / 0403 172 024 a.patterson@volunteeringvictoria.org.au