

Media release

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Volunteering Victoria looks into State Budget for signs of support for volunteering

Volunteering Victoria is looking closely at the State Budget papers post-lock up today for clear signs that this Victorian Government is investing in volunteering support and infrastructure for the state's volunteering programs.

"We haven't found anything yet, but the Budget papers are a very large set of documents and we hope to find a clear indication of whole of government support for volunteering in this State," said Sue Noble, CEO of Volunteering Victoria.

"Volunteering provides an essential contribution to Victoria. Millions of volunteers are coordinated by thousands of volunteer managers who ensure the volunteer effort is directed efficiently to where there is the most need. Those programs rely on small amounts of money to effectively support their work," she said.

Ms Noble pointed out that without whole of government support for volunteering infrastructure, many of Victoria's social and community services could not operate.

"We realise we live in a time of fiscal restraint, but we hope that once we go through the budgets for each of the policy areas and ministries, we will see clear signs of recognition of the importance of volunteering to the well-being of Victoria and Victorians.

"Services and activities that nurture and support people and communities rely on the power of an essential volunteer workforce. Everything from welfare support, health services, emergency services and everything that enriches our lives – sports, arts, culture, environment and sustainability projects – rely on volunteers.

"I look forward to being able to communicate to the volunteering sector in Victoria the budget items that directly support and promote their work," Ms Noble concluded.

*A breakdown of references to the volunteering in the State Budget is posted to the home page of the Volunteering Victoria website and will be updated regularly: www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au

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