



Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston

*****MEDIA RELEASE*****

May 2010

Volunteering: Now more than Ever

Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston is encouraging all Southern residents to join in celebrations during National Volunteer Week, 10 to 16 May 2010.

Ms Rishworth said "National Volunteer Week is a great opportunity to congratulate the hardworking volunteers who form the backbone of many services in our community."

"Hard working volunteers are making real and lasting differences in our local community through their work with vulnerable people, protecting our environment and even risking their lives during bushfires, floods and other disasters.

"In my role as a local member, I see everyday the contribution made by volunteers in our community. Just two weeks ago, I saw firsthand the contribution volunteers from all walks of life made to ANZAC Day services in the South.

"I also regularly speak to many grateful recipients of volunteer services who express to me that these services have significantly improved their quality of life."

Trisha, resident of Morphett Vale and recipient of the Meals on Wheels service said "The Christies Beach branch of Meals on Wheels is a wonderful service that allows me to continue to live at home independently. It makes it a lot easier having the meals prepared for me and I look forward to the visit as well."

Ms Rishworth said "Over 19, 000 people volunteer their services for the benefit of residents in Southern Adelaide each year. When asked why they chose to generously donate their time and skills, the most common response was to help others in the communityⁱ."

Richard of Port Noarlunga said "By undertaking courses provided by Southern Volunteering (SA) Inc and spending time volunteering at the Dolphin Club in Port Noarlunga and Seaford /Moana Neighbourhood Centre, I have gained experience which has enabled me pursue a number of opportunities for employment".

Ms Rishworth encouraged those interested in volunteering to visit www.govolunteer.com.au.

"The Rudd Labor Government is committed to supporting our volunteers and encouraging more people to discover the joys of giving to the community in this way," said Ms Rishworth.

The Australian Government's \$21 million Volunteer Grants program provided small grants to over 6,700 organisations last year, benefiting over 366,000 community volunteers. Successful organisations in this year's Volunteers Grants will be announced shortly.

For more information about National Volunteer Week see <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>.

ⁱ ABS, *Voluntary Work Australia Survey* (2006)