



Kelvin Thomson MP

Federal Labor Member for Wills

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU

Kelvin Thomson, Federal Member for Wills, is urging all locals to join in celebrations during *National Volunteer Week*, 12 to 18 May.

The theme for this year's National Volunteer Week is "*volunteers change our world.*"

"Every day hard working volunteers change our world here in Australia, and all over the world," Mr Thomson said.

"They are the glue that keeps our community going".

Mr Thomson regularly experiences first hand the invaluable contribution that volunteers are making to the community in Wills. Last week he visited a voluntary elderly pensioners group at the Reggio Calabria Club, to present members with *National Volunteer Week* Certificates of Appreciation.

Mr Thomson has also arranged Appreciation Certificates for the many priceless volunteers who assist with the local Neighbourhood Watch areas.

"Every year 15,062 people volunteer their time for the benefit of the community in Wills. As the hard work of volunteers at the Reggio Calabria Club and Neighbourhood Watch shows, this is a great contribution to community life.

"Across our nation, it's volunteers that protect our homes from bushfires, deliver meals on wheels, raise money for good local causes, organise local sports and youth groups, and many other positive activities."

Every year, Australians give up 8 million hours of their time to volunteer, and the top reason for volunteering is wanting to help others or the community.

"While issues like poverty and disadvantage divide our communities, volunteering unites us.

"Those who volunteer create connections and social relationships with those around them, and research has found volunteering has great health benefits for those involved.

"At the recent *2020 Summit*, there was an overwhelming call to celebrate and promote our volunteers, and *National Volunteer Week* is a great way of doing this".

As of July 1, the Government's revamped and improved *Volunteer Grants Program* will begin, making funds available to another 6000 organisations to help them support their volunteers.

"We want to make sure Australia fosters a nurturing and innovative environment for volunteer organisations, to encourage new ways of volunteering.

"Volunteering gives all of us a chance to give something back, underpinning community wellbeing and fostering strong, inclusive communities.

"Congratulations to all of our volunteers, and keep up the important work of changing our world!"

For more information about National Volunteer Week, go to:

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

Monday 5th May 2008

**For further information please contact Anthony Cianflone from Kelvin Thomson's office
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