



10 years of backing volunteering

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Rivalry aside to celebrate volunteering

Westpac has won a new national award that recognises employers for encouraging their workforce to volunteer.

In partnership with NAB, Australia's leading volunteering organisation Volunteering Australia, has instigated the Award for Excellence in Corporate Volunteering.

Nominees, ranging from Shell, IBM, Alcoa, ANZ, PricewaterhouseCoopers and ExxonMobil, were pipped at the post by Westpac for demonstrating best practice, innovation and positive community impact, with 85% of their workforce participating in volunteering or fundraising activities.

Westpac is the first recipient of the award and receives \$5,000 to donate to the community organisation of its choice.

Samantha Brown, Westpac's Head of Community Involvement said the award is a credit to its employees and highlights their passion for getting involved in the community.

"Westpac employees support a range of community organisations in a variety of ways. Increasingly, we are seeing teams and individuals undertaking volunteering activities that draw on their professional skills," said Ms Brown.

Volunteering Australia's CEO Julia Pollard said the Corporate Volunteering Award for Excellence recognises the contribution these workforce volunteering programs make to the community.

"From the calibre of entries, it is reassuring to know that many companies have achieved exceptionally high levels of standard in their programs.

“Through its support of this award NAB is demonstrating its own commitment to promoting the value of volunteering to the broader community.

“Westpac has established community programs which ensure that their involvement with not-for-profits is comprehensive, sustainable and of real value,” said Ms Pollard.

The award was announced as part of the 2007 NAB Volunteer Awards. NAB’s support for rewarding best practice in volunteering spans a 10 year period with over 500 groups sharing \$2.6 million to date.

NAB employees donated 6200 days, an equivalent to \$1.5 million in salary, to volunteering last year, grasping the opportunity to volunteer through their workplace.

Richard Peters, NAB Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, said that the Corporate Volunteering Award for Excellence is a fitting addition to the NAB Volunteer Awards.

“Corporate volunteering has proven to be an effective and sustainable component of corporate social responsibility strategies. An award that recognises this will hopefully encourage all levels of management to embrace not for profit partners,” said Mr Peters.

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Notes to Editors

Volunteering Australia provides assistance to national companies who are looking to establish or improve their volunteering programs. Further information about the benefits of corporate volunteering and best practice programs is available on Volunteering Australia’s site www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Twenty four community groups across Australia who exemplify first class volunteering practice shared a \$200,000 windfall after being honoured in the 2007 NAB Volunteer Awards.