

Media Release: Monday 3 August, 2015

National week shines spotlight on Australia's student volunteers

Today marks the beginning of National Student Volunteer Week 2015, which runs from 3 - 9 August. This year with the theme challenge yourself, be the change, celebrate each other the week will promote, support and recognise student volunteering across Australia.

National Student Volunteer Week is an annual celebration to acknowledge the substantial contribution of time, energy and skill made by student volunteers. Events will be hosted by universities and schools nationwide including volunteer expos, workshops, panels, networking sessions, fundraising drives, thank you events and volunteer projects that help local nonprofits.

Volunteering Australia CEO, Brett Williamson OAM, said engaging young people in meaningful volunteer work is a key priority for the volunteering sector at a national and local level.

"Providing students with opportunities to make a positive impact through volunteering enhances their student experience, it helps them with their personal and professional development and their career-aspirations."

"Strengths that students bring to their volunteering include their diversity, creativity, enthusiasm, understanding of technology and their new, innovative ideas, which benefits nonprofits and in turn whole communities," Mr Williamson said.

Volunteering has become increasingly common among young Australians over recent years, with recent ABS findings indicating that the highest rates of volunteering were for youth aged 15-17 (42 per cent).

National Student Volunteer Week will support innovation in student volunteering with the release of a number of significant resources and best practice guides that will continue to build a culture of giving within Australian's education sector.

Find out more about National Student Volunteer Week at www.nationalstudentvolunteerweek.org.au. Follow the week on social media #NSVW15.

Volunteering Australia is funded by the Department of Social Services to implement the National Student Volunteer Week project.

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