

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 10 December, 2015



Launch of the new National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool

Volunteering Australia's new **National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool** was launched today in celebration of International Volunteer Day (5 December).

The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool provides organisations across Australia with an easy-to-use online self-assessment tool to work towards meeting the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. The new National Standards for Volunteer Involvement were launched in May 2015.

Brett Williamson OAM, Volunteering Australia CEO said: "This is the critical next step in giving Volunteer Involving Organisations the means to measure their performance and achieve best practice, ultimately helping them to attract and retain volunteers."

Organisations will use the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool to assess their organisation's performance against the Standards, identify areas for development, and make improvements that will benefit both volunteers and the organisations they work with. The tool also includes workflow management features, templates to assist with volunteer management and an automatically generated plan for good practice.

"Volunteer Involving Organisations need to ensure they have systems in place to ensure a quality volunteer experience. The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool will assist them to fully implement these Standards by measuring their current performance and helping them work towards providing best practice in volunteer management by meeting the Standards," said Mr Williamson.

The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool follows the release of the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement, which were launched in May to mark the beginning of National Volunteer Week 2015. The Standards contain benchmarks specifically designed to help organisations attract, manage, recognise and retain volunteers, and to manage risk and safety with respect to volunteers.

The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool is a tailored version of Standards & Performance Pathways (SPP), a leading Australian online service for the completion of service and quality standards, compliance activities, and for managing risk and quality performance.

Further details about the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Tool are available at:

<https://spp.ngoservicesonline.com.au/national-standards-tool>

Background

The development of the new National Standards for Volunteer Involvement has been an inclusive project led by the CEOs of Volunteering SA&NT, Volunteering Tasmania and Volunteering WA. Following the establishment of this working group, and a sector-wide reference group comprising representatives from all

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Kylie Hughes, Volunteering Australia

E: kylie@volunteeringaustralia.org

P: 02 6251 4060

M: 0402 497 138



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states and territories, a draft document was prepared and presented to the sector for feedback via a survey and a series of consultations across Australia.

From that process, a set of revised Standards was created that were easier to understand and use, contained clear criterion and relevant content, and had wide applicability to different types of organisations and volunteer situations. The National Standards are directly relevant to the approximately six million Australians who volunteer and whose efforts contribute an estimated \$290 billion annually to the Australian economy (*O'Dwyer 2014*).

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