

## COALITION RESPONSE TO VOLUNTEERING AUSTRALIA

The Turnbull Government recognises the importance of volunteering in Australian society, and its role in helping to build strong, cohesive and resilient communities.

The selflessness of volunteerism is vital to an effectively functioning civil society, providing community organisations with much needed resources and expertise as well as providing an opportunity for individuals to increase their skills and confidence, and engage with their communities.

Our support for the voluntary sector is exemplified by our commitment that if re-elected the Turnbull Government will amend the *Fair Work Act* so that legislation can no longer be misused to undermine volunteer emergency services bodies.

The Coalition provides \$10 million each year for volunteer grants worth between \$1,000 and \$5,000 for each volunteer organisation. In 2015, the Department of Social Services received and assessed over 8,000 applications for a volunteer grant, resulting in nearly 5,300 successful recipients across Australia.

The Australian Government Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteers is awarded by Members of Parliament in appreciation of the important contribution made by volunteers in the Australian community. The Certificate formally acknowledges the efforts of outstanding and well-deserving volunteers.

The Coalition is committed to providing nationally consistent training for emergency services volunteers. The Australian Emergency Management Institute provides education, training and research services for the sector in flexible and innovative ways.

In addition, the Turnbull Government has implemented a new \$1 million Australian Government scholarship fund to boost education development opportunities for emergency management volunteers. This new approach to supporting our volunteers and their agencies recognises the complexity of the service they deliver and the high-level skills and leadership required to respond to emergency situations.

Eligible volunteers will receive financial support to access accredited vocational and higher education qualifications in emergency management related disciplines. At least 50 per cent of the scholarship fund will be set aside for volunteers who live and volunteer outside a capital metropolitan city.

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience will administer the scholarship on behalf of the Turnbull Government.

# THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

# CCHQ 2016



28 June 2016

Mr Tim Jackson  
President  
Volunteering Australia  
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Mr Brett Williamson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Volunteering Australia  
Level 2, 202 City Walk  
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Dear Messrs Jackson and Williamson

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

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Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at [www.liberal.org.au](http://www.liberal.org.au) and [www.nationals.org.au](http://www.nationals.org.au).

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tony Nutt  
National Campaign Director