

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 22 June 2018



Volunteering Australia signs Accord at National Volunteering Conference

Volunteering Australia is pleased to announce the signing of an Accord with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples to recognise and support the First Peoples of Australia.

The Accord was signed by Volunteering Australia CEO, Adrienne Picone and National Congress of Australia's First Peoples Co-Chair, Rod Little at a signing ceremony at the National Volunteering Conference on Wednesday 20 June.

Ms Picone and Mr Little addressed delegates at the Conference and shared their willingness to work together and pursue a better Australia.

"Volunteering Australia is proud to sign this Accord of support with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Our two organisations have shared values and we look forward to working together for the common goal of recognising and supporting the First Peoples of Australia," Ms Picone said.

The theme for National Volunteering Conference 2018 is ignite, invigorate and inspire. Susan Alberti AC set the scene with a keynote address that told an inspiring story of action in the face of adversity through her life journey and passions. The address certainly did ignite, invigorate and inspire conference delegates with a standing ovation from the crowd.

The morning of day two had a focus on the inextricable link between the support volunteers provide and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local and global level. Chris Jarvis from Realized Worth gave an engaging keynote introducing Impact 2030: The UN Sustainable Development Goals as a Key Strategy for Nation-Building.

Later, Thursday morning an expert panel discussed how organisations can start measuring their progress, and start advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The panel included Dr Peter Devereux of Curtin University, Paul Bird of Australian Volunteers International, Adrienne Picone of Volunteering Australia, Mara Basanovic of Volunteering Queensland and Evelyn O'Loughlin of Volunteering SA&NT.

The National Volunteering Conference continued Thursday afternoon with highlights including panel sessions focused on the Future of Volunteering and Resourcing the Sector followed by a Gala Dinner.

On the final day we look forward to an address from the Minister for Social Services, The Hon Dan Tehan MP, a panel session discussing Volunteering in the Gig Economy and three masterclass sessions. To close the conference a celebrity panel will share their volunteering stories. We will hear from former AFL player Adam Goodes, Australian actress Paula Duncan, Australian fiction author, former theatre and television actress and radio and television screenwriter Judy Nunn, actor and writer and Judy's husband Bruce Venables, and Australian performer, writer and comedian Jean Kittson.

Over 650 delegates are expected to attend the three-day event at the International Convention Centre Sydney. The National Volunteering Conference is Australia's key volunteering leadership event. The program features eminent speakers from across the volunteering sector bringing fresh ideas and insights while exploring the challenges and opportunities facing volunteering now and into the future.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Kylie Hughes, Volunteering Australia

E: media@volunteeringaustralia.org

P: 02 6251 4060

M: 0402 497 138