

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 10 April, 2017



Sign the petition to retain designated funding for Volunteering Support Services

Volunteering Australia and the State and Territory Peaks for Volunteering have released a petition to the Senate calling for retained funding for Volunteering Support Services.

Volunteering Australia Chief Executive Officer, Ms Adrienne Picone said, the Tower of Strength campaign aims to promote the vital role Volunteering Support Services play in promoting safe, effective and sustainable volunteering programs and the need for the Federal Government to continue to retain designated funding for Volunteering Support Services.

The petition asks the Senate to:

1. Recognise the important role that Volunteering Support Services have in building strong and resilient communities;
2. Retain funding for volunteer management and Volunteering Support Services at the current level of between \$6 – \$7.5 million in the 2017/18 budget

“The redesign of the Strong and Resilient Communities grants to take effect from 1 January 2018 does not include a volunteer management stream of funding specifically allocated to Volunteering Support Services meaning volunteering will be forced to compete alongside other worthwhile projects from across the community services for broader pools of funding that respond to themes of disadvantage.”

“This year, the Strong and Resilient Communities grants are delivering between \$6-\$7.5 million in funding to on-the-ground programs as part of the volunteer management stream of funding. To lose this would be an enormous blow to communities who rely on the volunteering programs that this funding delivers.”

“Volunteering Support Services are place-based organisations that promote, resource and support volunteering in local communities. They empower people to volunteer and help ensure that their experience is positive and safe. They help the thousands of community organisations that rely on volunteers to recruit, retain and manage those volunteers.”

“Volunteering Support Services underpin safe, effective and sustainable volunteering. The loss of funding for Volunteering Support Services will weaken volunteering in communities because key resources, services and development programs will be lost.”

“You can support volunteering by asking the Senate to retain designated funding for Volunteering Support Services. Sign our petition today and defend volunteering in your community,” Ms Picone said.

The petition to retain funding for Volunteering Support Services is available at:

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/towerofstrength/petition/>.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Kylie Hughes, Volunteering Australia

E: kylie@volunteeringaustralia.org

P: 02 6251 4060

M: 0402 497 138