**[Organisation Name] joins campaign calling for retained funding for Volunteering Support Services**

[Organisation Name] has joined Volunteering Australia and the State and Territory Peaks for Volunteering on a national volunteering advocacy campaign calling for retained funding for Volunteering Support Services.

[Organisation Name] [Position Name], [Name] said, the 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 provide designated funding for Volunteering Support Services.

The redesign of the Department of Social Services’ Strong and Resilient Communities grants, which take effect from 1st January 2018, has eliminated the specific allocation of funding for volunteer management services delivered by place-based Volunteering Support Services.

“The removal of this funding seriously threatens the ongoing viability of many Volunteering Support Services and weakens volunteering at a time when it is struggling to adapt to societal changes and economic pressures. It poses an enormous blow to communities such as [location] who rely on the volunteering programs that this funding delivers.”

“[Organisation Name] is a Volunteering Support Service that promotes, resources and supports volunteering in the [location] community. We empower people to volunteer and help ensure that their experience is positive and safe. We help community organisations that rely on volunteers to recruit, retain and manage those volunteers.”

[Include an example of your work and how you have assisted volunteers into local community-building roles with support from a Strengthening Communities grant..]

“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 the [location] community,” [he/she] said.

The petition to retain funding for Volunteering Support Services is available at: [www.volunteeringaustralia.org/towerofstrength](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/towerofstrength).

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**
[Name], [Organisation]

E: [email address]

P: [phone number]

M: [mobile number]