

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Regional and rural communities to benefit from scholarships to National Volunteering Conference 2018**

Scholarships are now open for the National Volunteering Conference 2018 to be held in Sydney from 20-22 June. The three-day Conference will 'ignite, invigorate and inspire' delegates from across Australia to address challenges facing the volunteering sector and identify opportunities for progress.

Regional and rural Australians understand better than most, that volunteers are the lifeblood of the community. Research demonstrates that volunteering yields a 450% return for every dollar invested. Nationally, this is an estimated annual contribution of \$290 billion.

"Volunteering is a cornerstone of the Australian way of life, with 5.8 million Australians giving their time, skills, and experience. It has a lasting social, cultural, and economic impact on the community," said Volunteering Australia CEO Adrienne Picone.

"Volunteering is important to building strong and resilient communities, and can play an essential role in supporting rural and regional areas. The Conference scholarship program aims to assist with travel to Sydney and registration costs. Attendees will benefit from the education and networking opportunities, and return to their communities with new knowledge," said Ms Picone.

The Australian Government is providing 200 free delegate places at the Conference through its Department of Social Services and Emergency Management scholarships, helping people who are disadvantaged, or from regional, rural or remote communities to attend the Conference. Applications are also available for organisations and individuals who are experiencing financial disadvantage.

A variety of scholarships are on offer that cover the cost of Conference registration, accommodation and travel. Go to [www.nvc2018.com.au](http://www.nvc2018.com.au) to apply. Applications close 15 March 2018.

### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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