

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 13 July 2017



## Volunteering sector retains designated funding for Volunteering Support Services

Volunteering Australia welcomes the news delivered by the Department of Social Services that funding for the [Volunteer Management Program](#) will be reinstated, following our Tower of Strength campaign.

Under this Activity, \$19.95 million in funding is dedicated to Volunteer Management Activity from 1 January 2018 until 30 June 2021.

Volunteering Australia CEO Adrienne Picone said, “We are delighted that through our sector-led campaign, we have retained designated funding for Volunteering Support Services. Volunteering Australia’s Tower of Strength campaign highlighted the vital role that Volunteering Support Services provide in promoting sustainable volunteering programs.”

Volunteering Support Services provide the critical infrastructure required for safe, effective and sustainable volunteering. It is essential to sufficiently fund Volunteering Supports Services, as they support and resource local volunteering programs, while empowering and ensuring the safe management of volunteers.

Volunteering Australia would also like to thank everyone who supported the campaign for effective volunteering.

“It is very encouraging that through the combined advocacy efforts of the volunteering sector, members of Parliament, and broader society, that Minister Porter, and the Department of Social Services, has recognised the incredible value that Volunteering Support Services play in the Australian community”, said Ms Picone.

The Department of Social Services has also announced today, the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) grants round has opened. Under SARC, community organisations will benefit from \$45 million in funding to help foster community cohesion by increasing individual belonging, engagement, and strengthening community capacity. The funding is for a period of three and a quarter years, from 1 April 2017 until 30 June 2021, through a single series of grant rounds in 2017. For more information on the SARC grants, visit the [www.communitygrants.gov.au](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au).

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