

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **GRANTS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS IN REID**

Community organisations in Reid are encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$5000 to assist the work of their volunteers.

Member for Reid, Hon Craig Laundy MP, said the funding is being provided under a \$10 million Volunteer Grant funding round, announced by the Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter.

"This funding is a key part of the Australian Government's support for volunteers who give their time and energy to help build stronger, more cohesive communities," Mr Laundy said.

"This is a great opportunity for community organisations in Reid to apply for a grant of between \$1000 and \$5000 to support the important work of their volunteers.

"12 were among the 5282 groups nationally benefiting from these grants last year.

"Concord Community Food Services Inc. for example used their grant to help their volunteers deliver food throughout the Concord area.

"These grants can be used by organisations for anything that helps with costs incurred by their volunteers, such as first aid training, background security checks or transport for volunteers who may have a disability.

"Community organisations can also purchase much-needed equipment, such as iPads or printers, so they can keep pace with technology," Mr Laundy said.

In opening the Volunteer Grants 2016, Minister Porter said this funding is part of the Commonwealth Government's \$28 million over 2016-17 for the Strengthening Communities programme that supports the capacity of communities to address local issues.

"Funding priority will be given to organisations working in disadvantaged communities or those affected by natural disasters," Minister Porter said.

"I particularly encourage regional and Indigenous organisations to apply," he said.

Applications for Volunteer Grants close 20 December 2016. For further information go to dss.gov.au/grants.

Alternatively, contact the Volunteer Grants 2016 Hotline on freecall 1800 020 283 or email grants@dss.gov.au.

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