



Sharon Grierson MP
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Media Release

26 September 2011

Federal Funding for Newcastle's Volunteer Community

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, has welcomed today's *Volunteer Grants* funding announcement for twenty-six community based organisations in the Newcastle electorate.

Over \$87,500 in grants have been announced across the twenty-six organisations.

The grants of up to \$5,000 aim to help organisations purchase much-needed equipment, help with volunteers' fuel costs, and cover the cost of training courses and background checks.

Volunteers play an important social and economic role in the Australian community, contributing approximately \$14.6 billion to the not-for-profit sector each year.

To find out more about *Volunteer Grants* 2011 visit www.fahcsia.gov.au or call 1800 183 374.

Attached is a table of successful grant applicants from Newcastle.



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Name	Grant	Organisation Description
2322 Men's Shed Association Incorporated	\$3,422.00	2322 Men's Shed is a community-based workshop where men can volunteer their time, skills and experience to support the local region. The Shed's volunteers work on projects to benefit local families and community groups, visit school to impart their skills to students, and promote the Shed's activities at local community events. The Shed aims to alleviate isolation and provide men with opportunities for regular social contact, ensuring a more cohesive and inclusive society.
Beresfield & District RSL Sub-Branch	\$3,900.00	The Returned Services League supports the veteran and ex-service community, as well as taking an active interest in the development of communities across Australia. Volunteers of the Beresfield and District Sub-Branch strengthen the local community through the provision of welfare and commemorative services, including ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day activities. The Sub-Branch also contributes to a wide-range of local projects, encouraging an inclusive environment and promoting activities that foster community development.
Church Street Community Garden	\$1,950.00	Church Street Community Garden is a place for local residents to develop social connections and remain healthy and active. Volunteers work in the Garden, teach interested gardeners new skills and welcome community members for social interaction and support. By providing a public space and opportunities for shared endeavour, the Garden connects enthusiasts of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.
Climate Action Newcastle Incorporated	\$4,731.00	Climate Action Newcastle is a community-based organisation dedicated to the improvement of the Newcastle region. Volunteers deliver a range of community initiatives to benefit local residents and develop projects to enhance environmental sustainability. The organisation works closely within the community to identify and address areas of need and is an important resource in the development of a more productive, environmentally conscious society.
Coalfields Diakonia Grainery Care Incorporated	\$4,950.00	Coalfields Diakonia Grainery Care is a volunteer-run organisation that provides support for marginalised members of the community and migrants of African descent. Volunteers work tirelessly to establish community support by providing meals, inexpensive clothing, household goods, transport and social activities to families in need. The organisation provides residents from various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds with the opportunity for social interaction and connection to the wider community.
Families Supporting Families Incorporated	\$2,125.95	Families Supporting Families assists families and carers of children with special needs to establish valuable support networks. Volunteers provide a welcoming environment where families and carers can congregate to share their experiences, and facilitate discussion groups and workshops, helping to form valuable networks of support. By forging connections, the organisation encourages families and carers of children with special needs to engage with the community.
Fig Tree Community Garden Incorporated	\$1,615.00	Fig Tree Community Garden is a place for local residents to develop social connections in a healthy and active setting. Volunteers teach gardeners new skills, work in the Garden and welcome community members for social interaction and quiet reflection. By providing a public space and opportunities for shared endeavour, the Garden connects gardening enthusiasts, families, people living with disability and socially isolated individuals.
Hippocrates Australian Greek Aged Persons Association	\$5,000.00	The Hippocrates Australian Greek Aged Persons Association provides social interaction for senior citizens of Greek descent. Volunteers support the Association by organising fundraising events, providing regular meals and entertainment for members and sending out a monthly newsletter. Participation in the Association fosters a sense of belonging among members and volunteers, contributing to a more integrated and engaged society.
Hunter African Communities Council	\$4,695.00	The Hunter African Communities Council provides a support network for individuals and families of Ethiopian descent. Volunteers assist local residents in accessing welfare and legal services, facilitate participation in sporting teams and organise social events that encourage migrants to engage with the wider community. Through the provision of these services, the Association encourages an integrated community and has become a valuable catalyst for social inclusion in the Broadmeadow region of Northern NSW.
Kooragang Landcare Volunteers	\$4,710.00	Kooragang Landcare Volunteers work within the local community to encourage active participation in the management of the region's natural resources. The volunteers undertake a range of restoration and preservation projects, such as planting trees to re-vegetate wetlands and protect against erosion, weed management and educating community members on organic farming techniques. Landcare promotes social inclusion by actively encouraging community participation in the beautification and preservation of the local region.



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Independent Association of Justices of the Peace Incorporated Lower Hunter	\$1,600.00	The Independent Association of Justices of the Peace provide information and social assistance to local community members. Volunteers at the Lower Hunter branch facilitate access to a range of services, including Justice of the Peace functions, forming a valuable network of support for community members. The organisation is an important local resource that promotes social inclusion, encourages community engagement and fosters the welfare of families and individuals.
Kiwanis Club of East Maitland Incorporated	\$1,627.00	Kiwanis is a volunteer-based organisation that endeavours to improve the community by helping less fortunate children, families and individuals. Volunteers consult with local charities and welfare groups to identify community need and increase community capacity through fundraising, welfare services and programs to improve town infrastructure. By encouraging people of all backgrounds to work together towards a common objective, the Kiwanis fosters a culture of social inclusion and an ethos of community spirit.
Newcastle & District Softball Association Incorporated	\$4,883.00	Newcastle and District Softball Association unites community members of all ages and abilities for competition, fitness and recreation. Volunteers provide training, coaching and mentoring for players, organise enjoyable recreational events and perform Club administrative duties. The Association also offers its premises as a community facility for local groups and events, providing an avenue for social interaction and integration.
Newcastle Congolese Community Incorporated	\$3,950.00	The Newcastle Congolese Community is a community-focused organisation dedicated to the welfare of people of Congolese descent. Volunteers organise language classes, participate in festivals and events to promote Congolese culture, and liaise with new arrivals to assist their integration into the community. The Community is a valuable social resource for people of Congolese background, encouraging values of support and multiculturalism by facilitating their engagement with the wider region.
Grandparents as Parents GAPS	\$4,500.00	Grandparents as Parents (GAPS) provides assistance to grandparents and other family members who are acting as carers for their young relatives. Volunteers coordinate several support groups across the Central Coast of New South Wales, help grandparents to access welfare and advocacy services, and organise recreational outings that enable participants to network and connect. GAPS helps to build more inclusive and understanding communities and has become a valuable resource for grandparents and kinship carers.
Scleroderma/Lupus Support Society Incorporated	\$1,725.00	The Scleroderma/Lupus Support Society is a community-based organisation that offers assistance to those affected by Scleroderma, Lupus, Sjogren's Syndrome and Raynauds Phenomenon. Volunteers provide face to face and telephone counselling for patients, educate the wider community on the conditions and organise fundraising events. The Society helps to ensure that patients, their families and carers have access to the necessary resources to assist them during treatment and recovery.
Special Friends of Shortland Public School	\$3,526.00	Special Friends of Shortland Public School offers families and community members the opportunity to get involved in the School's activities. The volunteers help out with fundraising activities, subsidising educational resources and supporting disadvantaged and people with disability community members. By promoting a culture of social inclusion and education, this community hub has a positive impact on today's children as they become tomorrow's adults.
Stockton Parents and Citizens Association Incorporated	\$2,550.00	Stockton Parents and Citizens Association actively works to build community involvement in the welfare of students and their families. Volunteers organise local events, such as fetes and barbeques, to attract community members and offer the chance for social interaction regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or disability. The Association provides families with the opportunity to become active participants in school life, fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens a socially inclusive society.
Stockton Senior Citizens Association Incorporated	\$1,400.00	Stockton Senior Citizens Association caters for older citizens of many cultural backgrounds and offers opportunities for social interaction with fellow community members. Volunteers organise a range of inviting activities, including morning teas, bingo nights and health presentations, that foster the physical and emotional welfare of participants and ensure that no member is at risk of social isolation. The Association provides members with a sense of belonging and offers a support structure for the continued wellbeing of the community.



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Strikers Softball Club Incorporated	\$3,725.99	Strikers Softball Club promotes active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities through participation in team sport. Volunteers foster a culture of dedication and engagement by organising recreational events to involve friends and families, teaching new players skills and techniques and managing Club administration. By facilitating participation in competitive and recreational softball, the Club promotes an integrated community and helps people of many backgrounds, including Indigenous Australians, to adopt healthy, active lifestyles.
Terrace Christian Church Incorporated	\$4,859.00	Terrace Christian Church relies on a base of civic-minded volunteers to better the community. Volunteers are dedicated to the emotional and practical wellbeing of community members, delivering a range of material support services and organising educational and recreational activities for young people. The Church is an established, valued part of the local community and a beacon of support for individuals and families in the region.
The Lions Club of Raymond Terrace Incorporated	\$3,278.00	The Lions Club of Raymond Terrace is part of a worldwide community-focused organisation that supports those in need through charitable service. Volunteers develop and implement a number of fundraising and community service projects to support disadvantaged individuals and families and assist charities to continue their vital work in local communities. Participation in the Club enables volunteers to make new friendships and work together towards the common goal of improving their community.
St Vincent de Paul Society Islington Retail Centre	\$3,600.00	The St Vincent de Paul Society Islington Retail Centre is dedicated to the wellbeing of individuals and families across the community. Volunteers in the Centre coordinate valuable services to assist local residents, selling quality, preloved furniture, clothing and household goods and organising support programs that offer participants a sense of belonging. The Society aims to build relationships of trust and respect during times of hardship, which encourages an inclusive community and fosters support networks for disadvantaged individuals and families.
Waratah Mayfield Rugby League Football Club Incorporated	\$4,912.00	Waratah Mayfield Rugby League Football Club enables the local residents to enjoy one of Australia's favourite pastimes in a friendly, inclusive setting. The Club operates with a base of dedicated volunteers who assist with training, grounds maintenance, fundraising and transport for the players. By teaching young people about healthy lifestyles, team values and social interaction, the Club continues to shape generations of engaged residents.
Waratah Netball Club Incorporated	\$3,000.00	The Waratah Netball Club offers community members of many ages and abilities the chance to develop teamwork, discipline and cooperation skills through participation in the sport of netball. Volunteers undertake numerous activities to benefit the Club and region, such as mentoring and coaching players and organising recreational events. As a focal point of the community, the Association encourages social inclusion for participants, volunteers and families.
Young People's Theatre Newcastle Incorporated	\$1,348.00	Young People's Theatre Newcastle endeavours to improve the social welfare of young people by increasing their level of engagement with the community. Volunteers work closely with local youth and their families to provide a safe environment for growth and opportunities for education, recreation and social interaction. The Theatre contributes to the healthy development of the community by encouraging participation and celebrating young people's role in society.