



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
**4 September 2008**

**RECOGNISING & REWARDING NEWCASTLE’S COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**

Sharon Grierson has today invited the community sector to participate in two initiatives to help recognise and reward the wonderful work that volunteers do in Newcastle.

Nominations are now open for the **2008 Newcastle Community Volunteer Awards** and applications open on the weekend for the **2008 Volunteer Grants Program**.

“Newcastle has a wonderful tradition of volunteers who give of their time and expertise to make our community a better place,” Ms Grierson said.

“I hope the community will nominate outstanding volunteers for the Awards so that their work can be publicly recognised and acknowledged,” Ms Grierson said.

Nominations for the Community Volunteer Awards close on Friday 26 September 2008, and they will be presented by Ms Grierson at a special ceremony in October.

“While publicly acknowledging the work of volunteers gives me great pleasure, I also know how tough it is for many organisations to give their volunteers the financial and material support they need.”

“That’s why I’m very happy to announce that applications open this weekend for funding under the 2008 Volunteer Grants Program.”

Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to eligible not-for-profit organisations to purchase equipment like computers, air conditioners, mowers and sports gear – and for the first time, grants are also being offered to community organisations to help volunteers with fuel costs.

Applications under the 2008 Volunteer Grants Program close on 17 October 2008.

“I hope that the community will help me to recognise our volunteers by nominating them for Awards, and to support their work by applying for funding under the Volunteer Grants Program.”

Members of the community are invited to contact Ms Grierson’s office on (02) 4926 1555 for more information, eligibility guidelines and application forms.

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