

Embargoed 11:00am Friday 23 May 2008**Friday 23 May 2008****SAYING THANKYOU TO OUR CHARITY VOLUNTEERS**

Hundreds of volunteers will be thanked for their service to charity at a luncheon hosted by the NSW Minister for Gaming and Racing, Graham West, today.

Mr West said the Volunteer Recognition Reception and Luncheon is being held at Parliament House in Sydney as part of Charity Awareness Week.

"The event, funded by the lemma Government and the Fundraising Institute of Australia, acknowledges the tireless efforts made by those who give up their time and energy to help others less fortunate," Mr West said.

"We have more than 5,000 registered charities in NSW which provide a range of services to those who need it each year.

"These charities would not be able to function without the generosity of volunteers.

"More than five million adult Australians volunteer each year and the difference they make in people's lives is often immeasurable.

"This event celebrates the extraordinary efforts of the volunteers who make our communities better places to live.

"It is also an opportunity to promote the valuable work and achievements of charities, and highlight the need for ongoing community support.

"The NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing has contributed \$7,500 towards the event, as well as providing other administrative support.

"Television weatherman, Mike Bailey, will MC the luncheon while Diana Ryall, one of Australia's leading businesswomen and a strong supporter of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, will be guest speaker.

"The NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing will also stage a series of educational seminars for charity workers in Sydney, Newcastle, Tuncurry, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

"These seminars are designed to improve understanding of legal requirements relating to accountability and record keeping, as well as best practice guidelines."

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