Thank volunteers as Newspoll survey shows 1 in 4 people helped by volunteers

A Newspoll survey released today for National Volunteer Week showed almost 1 in 4 people in NSW and the ACT were helped by a volunteer over the past 12 months, with parents and young people benefiting the most.

The survey, commissioned by The Centre for Volunteering – the peak body for volunteering in NSW, showed 22% (1.3 million people) in NSW were helped by a volunteer in the past 12 months.

The Centre for Volunteering CEO Gemma Rygate said the proportion of people helped by volunteers was even higher for parents and young people compared to people aged 50+.

“The survey showed that one in three parents with children under 18 (34%) nationally were helped by a volunteer over the past 12 months compared to 18% of respondents without children,” Ms Rygate said.

“Younger age groups also reported receiving more help from volunteers than the 50-plus age group, with 30% of 18–34 year-olds saying they were helped compared to 14% of those aged 50 and over.

“This isn’t too surprising when you consider how families come into contact with volunteers, like help for new mums, school reading groups, community sport, surf life savers at the beach and more.

“Importantl, this survey only measured a snapshot of people helped by other people. If you counted volunteers who helped the environment, animals and the arts, the number would easily double.”

The Centre for Volunteering is encouraging the community to tell volunteers how much they are appreciated during National Volunteer Week, including nominating them for formal recognition through the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards is an annual program run by The Centre for Volunteering to recognise the outstanding work of volunteers in every region across NSW. Every volunteer nominated is recognised at one of 20 regional award ceremonies held across NSW from September. Regional winners will be entered into the overall State 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Award Nominations are open from 11 May – 17 July 2015 via www.volunteering.com.au

The 2015 Volunteer of the Year Awards are supported by principal partners ClubsNSW, the industry body which represents the state’s 1400 not-for-profit clubs, the NSW Government and Bupa Aged Care.

Media inquiries: Kylie Yates 0418 607 575
Background:

Newspoll survey—Newspoll conducted a telephone survey among a national sample of 1212 people aged 18+ in March 2015. The following question was asked:

“Now thinking about all the different types of volunteers, such as coaches and managers at local sporting clubs, Girl guides, emergency services, but also people who are helping at school or helping those in need. In the past 12 months, have you personally been helped in some way by a volunteer?”

The results were extrapolated nationally and showed that over the past 12 months:

In NSW & ACT:
- Almost 1 in people 4 (22% or 1.3million people) reported having been helped by a volunteer
- Parents received more help from volunteers than those without children – 34% (818,000) of people with children under 18 reported receiving help compared to 14% of people without children

Nationally:
- 24% of Australian adults (4.3million) reported having been personally helped by a volunteer

The proportion is even higher among:
- Mothers – among those with children, mums (38%) tend to receive more help from volunteers than dads (29%)
- The younger age groups – 30% among those aged 18 –34 (1.6 million people) reported being helped by a volunteer compared to 14% (over 1 million people) for those aged 50+
- Part time workers – (36%), compared to those who work full time (23%) and those who don’t work (19%)
- Of those households with children, unmarried people (36% or 588,000 people) reported receiving more help than married people (33% or 1.7 million people)

About The Centre for Volunteering

The Centre for Volunteering is the peak body in NSW which promotes and supports volunteering and community participation. The Centre is a not-for-profit organisation with 40 years of history.

We represent more than 2000 volunteers and volunteering organisations. The Centre also works with key government and corporate organisations on Corporate Social Responsibility and employee volunteering programs.

The Centre for Volunteering connects people and organisations to strengthen the community. We do this through matching volunteers with community organisations, training, resource development, research, information and education services to help people get involved in their communities.

Find out more about the 2015 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards at www.volunteering.com.au

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