

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 12 August 2022

Launch of Youth Volunteer Army in Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government has provided funding to build a Youth Volunteer Army program in Tasmania (\$300,000 over three years). Thanks to this funding, Volunteering Tasmania has partnered with Student Volunteer Army New Zealand (SVA) to trial a youth-based volunteering program to address the declining volunteer rates in Tasmania by celebrating and recognising the volunteering already done by young people and creating a culture of volunteering in the next generation.

The program will be officially launched during National Student Volunteer Week (8-15 August), which acknowledges and celebrates student volunteers. The theme this year is Passion. Opportunity. Change, which explores how students can realise their dreams and effect change across the world...and it all starts with the act of giving their time to a cause they believe in.

The Youth Volunteer Army is designed to recognise the volunteer efforts of young people in Tasmania. The program is available for public school students and young people registered through jobs hubs across the state.

It will recognise and link youth volunteering to skills and experiences that support them to get jobs, build networks and increase civic participation.

“Our youth are incredible volunteers and contributors to our community, and this deserves to be recognised to secure the future of volunteering in Tasmania,” said Volunteering Tasmania chief executive officer Dr Lisa Schimanski.

“We want to recognise this and support even greater involvement and decision-making by young Tasmanians. Through the Youth Volunteer Army, we will support a new generation of volunteers through school-based, community-led volunteering initiatives and recognition of youth volunteering efforts,” she said.

As part of the Youth Volunteer Army program, youth will be able to access the service award app and log their volunteer hours. The app will track their hours and achievements through a CV of volunteering (summary of service) which they can use when applying for scholarships, apprenticeships, and employment.

By volunteering and logging their hours, they add essential skills to their CV, while also building confidence and helping others.

Rosny College is one of the four schools who have signed up to the program, and teacher Mel Sanderson says their partnership with Volunteering Tasmania has been rewarding.

“Participation in the Youth Volunteer Army has given our students a greater sense of purpose and value in community engagement.

“Students are developing valuable skills through volunteering that can be transferred to the workplace and employment. The whole process has been easy, fun and engaging,” Ms Sanderson said.

Official launch ceremony

Media are invited to attend the launch of the Youth Volunteer Army which will take place at Rosny College on **Fri, 12 August from 12-1pm**.

Principal Andrew Woodham, the Honourable Nic Street MP and Volunteering Tasmania CEO Lisa Schimanski will be in attendance, as well as several Rosny College students who are participating in the program.

Please note that anyone attending the event must produce a current Working with Vulnerable People card or complete a statutory declaration upon arrival at the Rosny College reception.

Click here to find out more about the Youth Volunteer Army:

www.volunteeringtas.org.au/future-of-volunteering/youth-volunteer-army/#/

If you would like to arrange an interview with Volunteering Tasmania CEO Dr Lisa Schimanski, please contact Dawn Green.

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Media enquiries

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