

## MEDIA RELEASE:

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### Volunteering Australia and Beyond Bank Announce 3-Year Partnership Agreement

Volunteering Australia, in partnership with Beyond Bank launch their three-year national partnership today helping to support Volunteering Australia's ongoing initiatives to continue to advance volunteering in Australia and allow Beyond Bank to develop its new community development division, which is focused on building stronger communities.

The national partnership is an exciting step for both organisations which share similar views on the importance of strengthening relationships between the corporate and not for profit sectors to ensure the ongoing success of both.

Beyond Bank Chief Executive Officer Robert Keogh says the partnership will help Volunteering Australia drive growth in the sector by removing social, economic and cultural barriers to volunteering and contribute to a stronger, more inclusive Australia.

"Australians are incredibly generous with their time, passion and skills, with research showing they perform more than 700 million hours of unpaid work each year," Mr Keogh said.

"That is a remarkable contribution to every facet of life, from listening to children read at school, to those who help train guide dogs, plant trees, volunteer in emergency service to those who deliver hot meals to the frail and sick.

With the support of Beyond Bank, Volunteering Australia will roll out a series of programs and initiatives including national conferences, a research and advocacy program and the national celebration of volunteering – National Volunteer Week.

Paul Lynch, Chair of the Volunteering Australia Board said "This partnership is an opportunity for Volunteering Australia continue its important work advocating for and providing recognition to the 6.1 million volunteers nation-wide"

"The strong support of Beyond Bank and their ongoing work within to the community sector is the perfect platform for Volunteering Australia to demonstrate its commitment to volunteers and the organisations which engage them, we are very proud to announce this partnership" said Maureen Cane, Acting CEO of Volunteering Australia.

The first project Volunteering will orchestrate will be the 15th National Conference on Volunteering, staged in Adelaide 4-6 September, hosted by Volunteering South Australia- Northern Territory.

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