

THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY - GRANTS

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Volunteering

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for Seniors and Volunteering) [2.17 pm]: The state government annually provides grants to celebrate Thank a Volunteer Day. The grants are to help local communities recognise and celebrate the tremendous contributions our volunteers make to Western Australia's economic and social capital. This special day coincides with the United Nations International Volunteer Day, which is celebrated on 5 December each year.

The Carpenter government's funding for this year's Thank a Volunteer Day celebration will offer, for the first time, two grant streams for whole-of-community events that acknowledge local volunteers across a range of activities and organisations. The first invites organisations to apply for one-off grants of \$500 to host a celebration event that brings together volunteers from their local communities. The second is a one-off grant of \$250 to stage a visual recognition event, the Vista of Vs. Grant recipients will be asked to display a field or vista of red Vs, similar to a sea of hands, in an open space in their community to represent their local volunteers. In addition, organisations and members of Parliament can select volunteers who provide outstanding service in any field to receive a special minister's certificate of recognition. I encourage all members of Parliament to take an active role both in nominating worthy individuals and in passing on information to local organisations about these initiatives.

The Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering, which is administering the grants program, is distributing information packs to interested parties. Members of Parliament will shortly receive a letter providing further details about Thank a Volunteer Day and how to get involved. The closing date for applications and nominations is Friday, 8 October 2006.

More than 430 000 people across our state willingly volunteer their time, energy and experience to improve the quality of life for all Western Australians, and it is important that we recognise that contribution.