



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

### MESSAGE: CANBERRA VOLUNTEERS' DAY 2008

Congratulations to all participants in Canberra's Volunteers' Day 2008.

Volunteers play a vital role in our community. Many Australians rely on the support and assistance they provide every day. Across Australia there are more than 5 million volunteers who contribute more than 700 million hours of work to the community each year. Volunteers in our community work tirelessly, contributing their expertise and enthusiasm on initiatives that make a real difference.

Volunteering is also a superb way for people to improve their skills, meet new people and contribute to their local community. There is no better feeling than the knowledge that you have made a positive difference to someone else's life. Whether it is helping improve conditions overseas, helping people with a disability, the homeless, a local charity, a youth group or the elderly, anyone who can spare a small or large amount of time can volunteer. Young people, working people and the elderly all play important roles volunteering in our community.

The Australian Government recognises how valuable the work of volunteers is to making this country a better place for all Australians. In this year's Budget the Australian Government has committed \$16.7 million to help volunteer resource centres, like Volunteering ACT, train and manage volunteers over the next four years under the Volunteer Management Program. This funding will directly benefit the work of Volunteering ACT and the many organisations and community groups in the ACT that rely directly on the work of volunteers.

I wish you every success for Canberra Volunteers' Day 2008 and the ongoing work of Volunteering ACT.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd  
Prime Minister of Australia