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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Supporting young people in volunteering and unpaid work

The Committee on Children and Young people recently tabled its report on volunteering and unpaid work placements among children and young people in NSW. The report aims to promote the benefits of volunteering and unpaid work to young people and encourage policy measures to ensure that volunteering and unpaid work placements are beneficial and safe for young participants.

Committee Chair, Mr Mark Coure MP said, "There is no question about the value that volunteering provides, both to communities and to the people who volunteer. Volunteering builds the social capital and wellbeing of society, and provides volunteers with opportunities to contribute to their communities, gain skills and experience, and build networks."

"Given the clear benefits of volunteering, it is particularly important to encourage young people to volunteer. We need to get young people involved in volunteering activities and foster a long-term commitment to volunteering that extends into adulthood. We need to do all we can to support young people in taking up volunteering opportunities, and in doing so we must ensure that all young people from across our community are not excluded from participating."

The Chair continued, "Like volunteering, unpaid work has the potential to provide young people with valuable skills and work experience in a formal work environment. During the course of the inquiry, the Committee found that young people were undertaking unpaid work in increasing numbers, and it was concerned to learn that there was a lack of clear guidelines about what constitutes legitimate and lawful unpaid work."

"In this report, the Committee has made a series of considered recommendations that will encourage and support young people to participate in volunteering activities, and also ensure that the unpaid work sector is better regulated, so that young peoples' unpaid work in NSW is both beneficial and safe."

The Committee's report can be accessed on the Committee's webpage at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/children](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/children).

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