

15 October 2007
(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2)

Portfolio
Volunteering

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING
HEARING

Question 2

The Hon Catherine CUSACK: You referred to supporting volunteers in rural and regional areas. Is it true that only Labor members of Parliament were allowed to nominate people from their electorates to receive the Premier's Community Service Award?

Answer

I am advised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet that the Award you are referring to is the Government of New South Wales Community Service Award. This Award enables the State to give recognition to people throughout New South Wales who have substantially contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of members of their community, in a manner beyond that which would be expected from their usual occupation. Presentation of the Award is not limited to volunteers.

The Premier is aware that volunteers, individuals and organisations are working effectively and achieving great things across all electorates. The Premier agrees with you that the recognition of those who work hard for the benefit of their greater community should not be restricted by political boundaries.

There is no policy whereby the Government of New South Wales Community Service Award is presented only to those in Labor held electorates.

Government policy entitles each Member of Parliament to nominate two people or organisations per year for the award. This entitlement is not limited to Labor Party Members but is open to all Members of Parliament regardless of their political affiliations. It is up to each Member of Parliament to be proactive in nominating members of their electorate for the Award.

The Hon Linda Burney MP