



# Kristina Keneally MP

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011

11/3

Mr Tony Harris  
Acting Parliamentary Budget Officer  
NSW Parliament  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

4.30pm

Dear Mr Harris

I am writing to you to formally request, under Part 4 (Election policy costings) of the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010, an official costing for the following announced policy documents:

- *An Active NSW*
- *Better Public Transport*
- *Bringing tourism and major events to NSW*
- *Championing childhood- A better start for our kids*
- *Celebrating our volunteers*
- *Protecting Jobs*

These policy documents outline our ongoing commitments in key areas of government.

Please find attached a copy of these policies outlining the purpose of the policy and relevant details required to complete the costing as per the requirements of the Act.

Should you require any further information on this request, please contact my office on (02) 9228-5239.

Yours sincerely

**Kristina Keneally**  
Premier of NSW  
Leader of NSW Labor Party







# Celebrating our volunteers

March 2011





## Celebrating our volunteers

One of the many things to celebrate in NSW is a volunteer culture that supports the “fair go” we all admire.

I grew up with the phrase, “a volunteer is worth a thousand pressed men (or women!)”, regularly drummed into my ears. But I think I didn’t fully appreciate the truth of this until I was engaged in volunteer work myself, here in NSW, with St. Vincent de Paul.

That experience taught me that it’s impossible to put a monetary value on this work, because you can’t put a price on passion and commitment.

**We rely on volunteers for much of our daily lives.** Without them there would enormous gaps in sport, arts, cultural and environmental activities that give our local communities so much of their identity.

And of course we rely on volunteers in times of emergency.

In NSW alone there are 1.7 million volunteers, who give more than 241 million hours of voluntary work to our communities each year. **And I am committed to increasing the proportion of the total community involved in volunteering by 10 per cent by 2016.**

Our plan for expanding volunteering in NSW commits \$880,000 to key initiatives including:

- making volunteering easier and improving access to information about volunteering
- broadening the volunteering base and encouraging new volunteering ventures
- valuing volunteering and celebrating their contributions; and
- supporting volunteering in the community and within organisations and business.

Labor is committed to this because we know that high rates of volunteering and community participation mean stronger, more cohesive communities.



Volunteering has been a big part of my life. I love the quiet satisfaction that comes from volunteer work and seeing the difference that each of us can make in the lives of others.

**Wherever we look in our communities we find volunteers are the backbone of so much we rely upon.**

**They deserve our support; and that is what a Labor Government will continue to deliver.**

*Kristina Leneally*

## **What this policy means for you**

Many people in NSW want to volunteer their time to a meaningful cause but don't know where to start.

And many volunteering organisation are crying out for more volunteers but don't have the time or resources to recruit them. We want to bring them together.

This strategy provides \$880,000 funding for a range of new initiatives to make it easier for people to find the volunteering activity that suits them and to help organisations attract new volunteers.

## **ACTION:**

### **Making volunteering easier and improving access to information**

- \$100,000 to improve the NSW Government volunteering website and portal to streamline access to volunteering information and match volunteers with organisations
- \$25,000 to sponsor and promote joint training opportunities for volunteers in regional centres across NSW
- Pilot a volunteer performance management training program with \$75,000 in funding for the Centre for Volunteering

### **Broadening the volunteering base and encouraging new volunteering ventures**

- Provide \$25,000 in seed funding to promote volunteering opportunities with key Aboriginal, ethnic community, disability and youth organisations
- Funding worth \$110,000 for organisations to develop plans to attract a broader cross section of the community
- \$30,000 to support and widely promote corporate and business volunteering efforts
- Encourage public sector employees to volunteer by creating linkages with related not-for-profit organisations seeking skilled volunteers

### **Valuing volunteers and celebrating their contributions**

- Provide \$20,000 to the Centre for Volunteering to enhance the profile of the NSW Volunteering Awards
- \$75,000 to partner with the volunteering sector, media, corporate and business interests to increase sponsorship, promotion and support for IYV+10 activities



### **Supporting volunteering in the community and within organisations and business**

- Provide \$200,000 in one-off grants for Volunteer Resource Centre staff to conduct training and outreach activities as well as enabling volunteer coordinators to be better connected and share good practice
- \$170,000 to pilot two volunteer partnership hubs based on an innovative UK model
- Provide up to \$50,000 in grants to local volunteering groups for one off projects
- Promote the Centre for Volunteering's annual volunteering good practice conference

## Labor and Volunteering

Volunteering has many benefits – both for individuals and the broader community.

**For individuals, volunteering can reduce social isolation, raise self-esteem, lower stress, and improve overall health and wellbeing.**

Volunteering can also provide opportunities for individuals to develop new skills or enhance existing ones that may improve their employment prospects or career path.

For the community, volunteering significantly contributes to the wellbeing and unity of a community. It enables members of the community to connect in ways not possible in other arenas. It also brings significant economic benefits, allowing taxpayer funding to be focused on other endeavours and needs.

And for organisations using volunteers, it can complement and expand the efforts of paid staff, broaden the skill mix, and improve morale and overall performance.

## Our Challenges

There are a range of challenges facing organisations that rely on volunteers, including:

- A declining traditional volunteer base, that is, mature aged volunteers;
- Difficulties replacing the traditional volunteer base with people from groups underrepresented in volunteering; and
- Difficulties faced by community members in balancing their volunteering activities with their work and family commitments.

There are also challenges in attracting skilled volunteers, or ensuring appropriate supervision for volunteers who require training and support in their roles.

Volunteer organisations report challenges with running costs; regulatory and compliance issues; difficulties retaining volunteers once trained; and adapting volunteering models and practices to meet changing community needs and local requirements.

There are a number of ways in which we can overcome these challenges.

For example, in Australia and overseas, work-sponsored or corporate volunteering presents an opportunity for expanding the volunteer base.

Similarly, whole-of-family volunteering may provide solutions to those struggling to fit the volunteering activities into a busy family life. And using technology for “distance or online volunteering” also presents a strategy for engaging a new group of volunteers.

This strategy has been developed to address some of these challenges and trends in volunteering.

## Our Record

### LABOR

- We set a target to increase volunteering by 10 per cent by 2016 – that's more than 150,000 new volunteers.
- Introduced an \$8 million student volunteering program
- Introduced the RFS & SES cadetship programs in schools, which have involved over 2,500 students since 2004
- Introduced the Premier's Student Volunteering Awards
- Introduced *SES Indigenous and CALD Volunteer Induction Training Programs* to increase the number of Aboriginal people volunteering for the SES
- Created a Volunteering Unit to coordinate programs across Government
- Implemented key recommendations of the NGO Red Tape Reduction Report, including the introduction of standard funding application forms and simplifying administrative requirements for NGOs funded by Government

### OPPOSITION

- No volunteering policies



## **Making volunteering easy and improving access to information**

A number of steps have been taken in NSW to make volunteering easier. These include:

- The NSW volunteering web portal ([www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au](http://www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au)) which provides links to organisations looking for volunteers and other information;
- The *Guide to Volunteering* publication which contains information on topics such as risk management, public liability insurance, recruitment, training and retention of volunteers;
- The *Volunteers in Policing* program encourages community members to volunteer with the NSW Police Force.

A re-elected Keneally Government will ensure there is a coordinated approach to enabling volunteering in NSW.

### **ACTION:**

- \$100,000 to enhance the NSW Government volunteering website and portal to streamline access to volunteering information
- \$25,000 to sponsor and promote joint training opportunities for volunteers in regional centres across NSW
- Work with the Federal Government to ensure the *National Volunteering Strategy* is effective for NSW
- Pilot a volunteer performance management training program with \$75,000 to the Centre for Volunteering



## **Broadening the volunteering base and encouraging new volunteering ventures**

The Keneally Government has implemented a range of initiatives to broaden the volunteering base, including:

- The Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service Cadetship Programs in schools, which has involved over 2,500 students since 2004;
- Leadership programs for women from non-English speaking backgrounds and Aboriginal women to broaden the volunteer base in sport; and
- The State Emergency Service *Indigenous Volunteer Induction Training Program*.

The Government has a role to play in better promoting volunteering opportunities across the community.

A re-elected Keneally Government will lead by example and take steps to better promote and support volunteering across the NSW public sector. We will also work with business organisations to increase the involvement of their employees in volunteering activities.

### **ACTION:**

- Provide \$25,000 seed funding to promote volunteering opportunities with key Aboriginal, ethnic community, disability and youth organisations
- Funding worth \$110,000 for organisations to develop plans to attract a broader cross section of the community
- \$30,000 to support and widely promote corporate and business volunteering efforts
- Encourage public sector employees to volunteer by creating linkages with related not-for-profit organisations seeking skilled volunteers

## **Valuing volunteers and celebrating their contributions**

The Keneally Government recognises volunteer contributions with a range of awards and ceremonies, including:

- NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards;
- The Community Relations Commission Awards for Volunteering; and
- The NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards program.

In this, the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, we have an opportunity to further promote the individual and group volunteering effort.

### **ACTION:**

- Provide \$20,000 to the Centre for Volunteering to enhance the profile of the NSW Volunteering Awards
- \$75,000 to partner with the volunteering sector, media, corporate and business interests to increase sponsorship, promotion and support for IYV+10 activities



## Supporting volunteering in the community and within organisations and business

The NSW Government is working with organisations and businesses to boost volunteering. Specific programs include:

- Significant investment in learning and development tools to support better governance and financial management for voluntary boards of management in non-government organisations;
- Training programs to assist volunteer administrators such as *Running Your Club* and *It's Your Business*, which help volunteer directors of state sports organisations understand their legal obligations; and
- NSW Health allocates annual funding to the United Hospitals Auxiliaries which oversees and coordinates fundraising for volunteer groups in NSW public health facilities.

While support for volunteers works best if provided at the local or organisational level, there are things we can do to assist the volunteering effort, such as training and outreach activities.

A re-elected Keneally Government will trial intensive, place-based approaches to volunteering to support new types of volunteering ventures.

### **ACTION:**

- Provide \$200,000 in one-off grants for Volunteer Resource Centre staff to conduct training and outreach activities and to enable volunteer coordinators to be better connected and share good practice
- \$170,000 to pilot two volunteer partnership hubs based on an innovative UK model
- Provide up to \$50,000 in grants to local volunteering groups for one off projects
- Promote the Centre for Volunteering's annual volunteering good practice conference



[www.kristinakeneally.com.au](http://www.kristinakeneally.com.au)

