



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing
and Youth

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 2 May 2008

Chair: Annette Ellis MP

Deputy Chair: Hon Judith Moylan

Australians who volunteer: spotlight on volunteering

*Family, Community, Housing and Youth Committee to hold a
roundtable forum on community and welfare volunteering*

Date: Wednesday 7 May 2008

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue: Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more than 4.4 million Australians aged 18 years and over did voluntary work in 2000. These volunteers contributed a total of 704 million hours of unpaid work to the Australian economy.

To examine a range of issues relating to the challenges facing community and welfare volunteers and volunteering organisations in Australia, the House of Representatives Family, Community, Housing and Youth Committee is to conduct a roundtable forum chaired by Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT).

While community and welfare volunteering will be the focus of this forum, it is anticipated that many of the issues facing volunteers and volunteering organisations in this sector are also likely to apply to the voluntary sector more broadly.

The roundtable participants will represent a range of stakeholders, including representation from the national peak body, Volunteering Australia, and from a diverse range of volunteering organisations and individual volunteers. Themes for consideration will include emerging trends in volunteering in Australia, challenges for individual volunteers, and the operational and administrative/legislative challenges faced by volunteering organisations.

The forum will enable members of the committee to engage with participants and explore new strategies for how government and business can better assist volunteers and volunteering organisations in the community and welfare sector.

The forum will be conducted in public and the committee invites interested individuals to attend to observe first hand the proceedings of the day.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Annette Ellis, on (02) 6277 4372 (Parliament House) or (02) 6293 1344 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries, please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4566, or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy