



**8 May 2016**

**Guy Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier**

## **National Volunteer Week**

This coming Monday marks the start of National Volunteer Week, which runs from 9 to 15 May. National Volunteer Week offers the opportunity to highlight the important role volunteers play in our community, as well as celebrate volunteers and volunteerism in Australia.

The theme for National Volunteer Week for 2016 is 'Give Happy, Live Happy' and encourages all Tasmanians to give whatever time they can by participating in volunteering.

The act of volunteering is a rewarding experience and provides the opportunity to help make other people's lives a bit better. Over six million Australians, and on average four out of every five adult Tasmanians volunteer in some shape or form.

According to the recent State of Volunteering report, volunteering provided a total benefit of \$4.9 billion to the Tasmanian economy, with Tasmanian employers enjoying \$2.1 billion of productivity benefits as a result of their employees volunteering

The report also found that Tasmanians have donated around 7.1 million hours of volunteers work over 12 months across a wide range of areas including emergency services, health and aged care, youth development, sport and recreation, arts and culture and the environment.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has committed to provide \$260,000 a year to the lead organisation for volunteers and volunteering, Volunteering Tasmania, to help plan and grow volunteering into the future.

This week I moved a motion in parliament to recognise the amazing work of volunteers around the state, and I would like to thank all of Tasmania's hardworking volunteers for their selfless and tireless contributions to the State.