

16 May 2019

Celebrating Volunteers with Minister for Multiculturalism

SydWest Multicultural Services will be celebrating our volunteers' contributions as a part of National Volunteer Week 2019

SydWest Multicultural Services will be celebrating and recognising the contributions of our volunteers at a special event to be held **Wednesday 22nd May 2019 from 10.30am** at the SydWest Blacktown office.

Special guest to the event will be new Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, **The Hon. John SIDOTI, MP**. SydWest Multicultural Services is pleased to be welcoming the new Minister to meet with some of SydWest's volunteers and learn more about their contributions to our diverse work to *connect cultures and build community*.

Every day, our volunteers donate their invaluable time through English conversation, homework help, learner driver practice, social support, special outings and other among numerous activities that support culturally and linguistically diverse peoples (CALD) live healthy, integrated and productive lives in their local community.

Each volunteer will be presented with a certificate and small gift in appreciation by the Chair of SydWest Multicultural Services' Board, Chief Inspector Robert Fitzgerald.

The event will also feature a short presentation by one of our dedicated volunteers, **Judith Bennett**, who has been leading English Conversation classes for newly arrived refugees at SydWest. She will be sharing her experience of volunteering and what it has added to her life. Judith said:

In my voluntary work with SydWest, I give English conversation classes to migrants and refugees in Blacktown and Mt Druitt. They are remarkable people who have lived through extremely challenging times, and it is very rewarding for me to get to know them and to help them to gain confidence in speaking our language.

Elfa Morakitakis, CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services said:

SydWest is grateful to the role that volunteering plays in helping us create a stronger, more connected and resilient Australian community.

Our volunteers give of their time and expertise and their contribution makes an incredible difference in the lives of people we work with, as well as being role models for our clients.

SydWest Multicultural Services is a large community services organisation providing services & supports covering Settlement, Aged Care, NDIS, Women & Families and Youth.

Statement Ends

For further information, contact **Vikki Hine** SydWest Multicultural Services, on Tel: (02) 9621 6633
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