



Anna Burke MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 25 August 2011

Celebrating Local Volunteers

The Caroline Chisholm Awards, which recognise outstanding volunteers in the cities of Whitehorse and Monash, will have their 10th anniversary at the ceremony for this year's Awards on the 10th of September, Federal Member for Chisholm, Anna Burke MP announced today.

The Awards are named after nineteenth century volunteer Caroline Chisholm, who assisted over 14,000 people between the years 1841 and 1844. She embodied all that is noble about volunteering.

"For ten years now, the Caroline Chisholm Awards have celebrated the contribution of outstanding people performing voluntary work in our community. The Awards are about recognising unsung local heroes whose work would otherwise go unheralded," Ms Burke said.

"Over the past decade, hundreds of deserving volunteers who either live or perform voluntary work in the electorate of Chisholm have received Awards for the selfless contributions they make in helping others and ultimately the community," Ms Burke said.

All recipients of the Caroline Chisholm Awards embody both selflessness and community-mindedness in a variety of ways.

One of the original winners of the Caroline Chisholm Awards in 2001, Graham Lawrence, received his Award for over 40 years of active service in Victorian scouting movement, voluntary work with the local Lions Club Op Shop and in excess of a decade of service in the Mount Waverley Neighbourhood Watch program.

Gwennyth Baker received her Caroline Chisholm Award in 2002 for her tireless work for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, working voluntarily for between 1 and 5 days in the Foundation's Melbourne office. Gwennyth organised volunteers at the Foundation, took on responsibility for finances and was a phone contact for anxious parents wishing to match up with other parents of diabetic children.

Marie Hodgens was awarded a Caroline Chisholm Award in 2005. Marie received her Award for her work as a Justice of the Peace, an active member of the Wattle Park Committee of Management participating in lobbying for inner urban green space, a member of a singing group which visited nursing homes and a member of Homeplus Living Committee of Management, an organisation that provides accommodation for homeless students.

"Volunteers play such an important role in strengthening our community, often at great personal sacrifice. It's important to recognise the vital difference they make in many people's lives," Ms Burke said.

Further information about the Caroline Chisholm Awards is available through the office of Anna Burke MP on 9802 0566.

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