



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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TIME TO CELEBRATE NSW HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today thanked the state's hospital volunteers for their important and tireless work.

On NSW Health Volunteers Appreciation Day, Mrs Skinner was joined by Hornsby MP Matt Kean at Hornsby Hospital, where more than 150 community members are registered to provide patient and hospital volunteer support services.

"Volunteers make such a difference in our hospitals and health facilities, donating their time and care to patients and their loved ones, while assisting staff with a range of support duties," Mrs Skinner said.

"Today we celebrate our volunteers and reflect on how lucky we are to have them. It is also an opportunity for others in the community to consider becoming a volunteer."

Mrs Skinner met volunteer feeding program members including generous local woman Beryl Simpson, who cares for a disabled son at home and still finds time to give back to her local hospital by helping patients needing assistance to eat their meals.

Mrs Skinner also visited the Pink Ladies' gift store, which sells flowers, handmade crafts, food and gifts to benefit the hospital.

Mr Kean said: "Our volunteers are incredibly compassionate, often giving up their time each week to lend a much-appreciated hand. Their loyalty is inspiring and they ask nothing in return for their time and energy."

The state's Local Health Districts each provide support to volunteers, who undertake a wide range of activities such as cleaning children's toys, fundraising, flower arranging and helping patients find their way through hospital facilities.

In 2014-15, almost 6,000 United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW volunteers, who fundraise and support patient comfort and care, raised more than \$6 million for NSW hospitals.

For information on becoming a volunteer with NSW Health, visit:
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/business/volunteering/Pages/default.aspx>