



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER THANKS VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR TIRELESS WORK AND DEDICATION

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today praised the efforts of thousands of volunteers who work tirelessly to help patients, staff and visitors in hospitals and health facilities across the state.

Mrs Skinner said NSW Health Volunteers Appreciation Day is a time to reflect on the vital contribution made by these people, old and young.

“When I visit hospitals throughout NSW, I love to stop and chat to the volunteers who serve on craft stalls and information desks near the front entrance,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Other volunteers are less prominent but just as vital to our hospitals, working behind the scenes to help staff and support patients in countless ways, including prevention of falls and assistance with meals, to name just two.

“The loyalty of these volunteers is inspiring and they ask nothing in return for their time and energy.

“Today is an opportunity to recognise our volunteers and to 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 said.

Many volunteers provide services through hospital auxiliaries that fundraise and support patient amenities.

In 2012-2013, more than 6,000 United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW volunteers raised more than \$10 million for NSW hospitals.

The state’s Local Health Districts support volunteers through locally-managed volunteer programs such as catering, gardening, retail, flower arranging, providing companionship and fundraising.

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