

Senator Catryna Bilyk

Labor Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

Grants round opens for local volunteers

Labor Senator Catryna Bilyk today encouraged local non-profit organisations to apply for grants under the Australian Government's \$21 million *Volunteer Grants 2010*.

The grants round was announced by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin and the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens on 11 March 2010.

Senator Bilyk said grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 were available to help eligible non-profit organisations purchase much-needed equipment, cover fuel costs, and for the first time, provide training courses and background checks.

"This year volunteer organisations can apply for grants to help contribute to the costs of training for volunteers, such as first aid or cultural awareness training. The funding can also be used to help pay for background checks to make it easier for people to volunteer."

We know how hard volunteers work across Tasmania and these grants will support local non-profit organisations and encourage more people to get involved in our community through volunteering," Senator Bilyk said.

The grants will help non profit organisations purchase small equipment such as computers, shade-sails, barbeques and first aid kits, as well cover training and petrol costs.

Applications for *Volunteer Grants 2010* are now open and close 2pm Friday 16 April 2010.

To apply, or for more information, please visit www.fahcsia.gov.au or call the hotline on 1800 183 374.

/Ends 17 March 2010

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