



RECOGNISING OUR HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

9 AUGUST 2001

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said people had a little more than a week to put in a nomination for the 2001 NHMRC Health Volunteer Awards.

She said nominations close on July 20 for the National Health and Medical Research Council's awards to recognise volunteers.

"These prestigious awards are a well-deserved means of honouring the work of so many volunteering organisations and individuals in the health and health care-related fields," she said.

"All health volunteers, from organised services such as St John Cadets to assistants at the local hospital can be nominated under the program. Nominations can be submitted by organisations or individuals themselves, or others in the community can nominate those they believe to be worthy."

Ambulance and first aid services, hospital visitors, volunteers at nursing homes, auxiliary committees and Meals on Wheels are some examples

Mrs Penfold said nomination and information kits can be obtained from her office or from the NHMRC by phoning 02 6289 9812, or from the NHMRC website at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au> or by emailing nhmrc_volunteer_awards@health.gov.au

"The NHMRC is the world's leading source of public health advice on important issues.

"It is Australia's primary funding body for medical research, and provides for the conduct of research activities," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the NHMRC's Health Advisory Committee has set up a special sub-committee to investigate and chronicle the degree to which volunteers are relied upon to deliver health care services in Australia.

The result will be a definitive insight into Australia's volunteering experience, both in an historical context as well as being useful in identifying future needs.

"Volunteering is strong on Eyre Peninsula so many nominations should come from our region," Mrs Penfold said.