



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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SPORTS VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

The people who give freely of their time, skills and passion to support NSW sport will be recognised for the first time with a dedicated annual sports awards program.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Graham Annesley, together with Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello, officially launched the inaugural NSW Sports Volunteer Awards with key members of the State's sporting community at Sydney Olympic Park.

"Sport at grassroots level is very reliant on volunteers – the mums, dads, former players and other community members who play vital but unpaid roles such as coach, official and club committee member," Mr Annesley said.

"Volunteers will be recognised in their own right through a separate award scheme by the State's industry peak body, the NSW Sports Federation.

"The awards recognise the efforts of individuals, as well as acknowledging excellence in volunteer management by sporting clubs and associations," Mr Annesley said.

Minister Dominello said the Awards will help to boost recognition of the approximately 360,000 sports volunteers in NSW.

"I have had the privilege of meeting many volunteers and I understand how vital volunteers are to local sporting activities," Mr Dominello said.

"Award programs play an important role in recognising volunteers, and also highlighting the invaluable work of volunteers across the community.

"The Government is currently developing a *Volunteering Strategy for NSW* and I look forward to working closely with the sports sector on promoting volunteering and supporting volunteers," Mr Dominello said.

Mr Annesley said, "Almost a third of all volunteers in NSW volunteer in the sports sector.

"I congratulate the NSW Sports Federation for launching this initiative and I look forward to honouring the inaugural award winners," Mr Annesley added.

For more information including nomination details, visit the NSW Sports Federation website at www.sportnsw.com.au.