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15 October 2015

Working with Vulnerable People Registration  
Department of Justice  
PO Box 56  
Rosny Park TAS 7018

### **Consultation on Amendments to Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013*.

Volunteering Tasmania (VT) has had significant involvement with the implementation of the *Registration to Work With Vulnerable People Act* (the Act). Through our role as the Peak body for volunteering, we have supported many volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) better understand their legislative requirements.

Legislative change has been a challenge for many VIOs. Prior to the introduction of the Act, risk management strategies varied across the volunteer sector. We acknowledge the significant work the Department has undertaken to ensure that VIOs understand both their new legal obligations, and the rationale behind these changes.

VT commends the Department's focus on protecting the existing subsidised fee for volunteers. To safeguard the reduced fee, VT would support measures that ensure volunteers converting to a paid position meet the fees for a paid worker.

Given the changes required under the proposed amendments, VT recommends a 'grace' period be introduced as part of the implementation process. Many VIOs and volunteers that VT supports have only recently adapted their internal procedures to bring them into line with current legislation. Adopting severe penalties before these organisations and individuals have had time to adapt to new requirements is not a preferred option.

[www.volunteeringtas.org.au](http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au)

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Ongoing work between the Department, VT and the volunteer sector is required to ensure appropriate education and awareness of any changes to the Act. We hope that working collaboratively would give VIOs, volunteers and other organisations time to understand any new requirements and responsibilities. We also hope this would aide in minimising any risk of misuse of the volunteer registration under the Act.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Picone'.

Adrienne Picone  
CEO, Volunteering Tasmania

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