

Tasmanian Government commits funding for disaster recovery volunteering

Sunday, 7 May 2017

On Monday, 8 May 2017 the Hon Sarah Courtney, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and Community and Veterans Affairs will join Volunteering Tasmania chief executive officer, Alison Lai to announce a four-year funding commitment to disaster recovery volunteering.

Committing \$200,000 over four years to Volunteering Tasmania, the funding will be used support the implementation of Emergency Volunteering – Community Response to Extreme Weather (EVCREW).

EVCREW is a service that provides a coordinated approach to matching volunteers with organisations supporting disaster response and recovery efforts.

Alison Lai welcomed the announcement and applauded the Government’s commitment to providing a system that will enable everyday Tasmanians to assist in times of a natural disaster.

“Volunteers are vital during and in the aftermath of emergencies” Alison said.

“During recent natural disasters, there has been an incredible amount of good-will and willingness from the community to assist in the response and recovery effort.

“However, proper coordination of these volunteers is critical to ensure everyone remains safe.”

EVCREW does not replace existing Tasmanian emergency services volunteering processes, rather it will work alongside them to strengthen Tasmania’s community response in times of disaster.

“At all times during a disaster we need to ensure that our trained emergency service workers have the opportunity to do their work and get the disaster contained,” Alison said.

“Once they have deemed the disaster zone safe and the situation has been assessed, this is when additional volunteers who have registered through EVCREW can be called upon to assist.

“We know that EVCREW works and it is currently the system that is being used in Queensland to coordinate volunteers in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie.”

Lai confirmed that EVCREW is already operational in Tasmania.

“Through previous support from the Tasmanian Government, Volunteering Tasmania set up the EVCREW system and this funding will enable us to keep it running and work with members of the community to ensure that Tasmania is prepared to deal with an emergency.”

There are approximately 300 volunteers currently registered on EVCREW.

Volunteering Tasmania encourages other community members interested in helping with disaster efforts to register as an individual or as a group.

For more information email Volunteering Tasmania at emergencyvol@volunteeringtas.org.au

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:

Sarah Courtney MP will be joined by Alison Lai, CEO of Volunteering Tasmania with uniformed emergency services volunteers at the Tasmanian Fire Service, Melville Street at 1.15pm on Monday, 8 May 2017.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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