



DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
25 May 2018**

Volunteers recognised by Premier

About 70 people from a wide section of the community attended the annual District Council of Grant Volunteers' Morning Tea, which coincides with National Volunteers' Week and is hosted by Council to recognise the valuable contribution volunteers make to the community.

Mayor Richard Sage proudly presented three 2018 Premier's Certificates of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service at the event. The Premier's certificate is a testament to the dedication, commitment and support of volunteers across South Australia. The groups honoured were the Tarpeena Cancer Support Group, the Port MacDonnell Community Emergency Response Team and the Bollywood Team.

The Tarpeena Cancer Support Group was formed ten years ago following a suggestion by Poppy Howe. For the first three years, the group raised funds for the Cancer Council, and then decided to fund projects that would benefit local cancer patients directly. The groups' fundraising activities, which include collections during its Tuesday meetings at the Tarpeena Football Club, catering at various functions and hosting a monthly stall at the Tarpeena Family Market, culminated in the donation of an Accu Vein machine for the Mount Gambier Hospital. The machine has made a difference to nurses and patients helping to illuminate veins on the skin surface to allow needles to be inserted more easily and accurately. The Group has since installed an aquarium in the Chemotherapy Unit of the Hospital, and donated two special mattresses for the Penola Hospital to help provide comfort and relief for cancer patients there.

The Port MacDonnell Community Emergency Response Team was the first of this type of service delivery model in South Australia. It was born of the need for a quicker response to emergencies than the Mount Gambier based Ambulance was able to give. Shortly after they commenced they were responding to over 100 events per year. The team have been involved with at least 3 successful cardiac arrest resuscitations, as well as providing first level treatment and patient care to numerous community members until an ambulance

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arrives. The success of this model has now been replicated at 5 other locations across the state. Since January 2006 the volunteers have given over 71,000 hours of 'on call' service plus many other hours of service when crew have responded to call outs but not been rostered on. A number of the members have been on the team for over ten years, including Volunteer team leader Denise Gower.

The Bollywood Team, headed up by Maureen Klintberg and Teresa Bueti, is made up of 31 hospital staff and community members who dedicate many hours to raise awareness of kidney health and encourage community support to assist with the upgrade of the Mount Gambier Hospital Renal Unit. The Bollywood Hospital Ball resulted in the formation of the Bollywood Team. The Ball raised \$55,000 with the Bollywood Team's efforts recognised by metropolitan health services, Kidney Health Australia, politicians and SBS television. The Bollywood Team continued community awareness and fundraising helping to secure the commitment of \$2.1M government funding. Maureen and Teresa worked alongside kidney specialists and practitioners building links to establish a South East Kidney Support Group and organise a community forum to promote the hospital. The Bollywood team have demonstrated the power volunteers can have to influence and improve health outcomes for regional patients.

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Frank Dickers, Denise Gower and Andrew Thomas representing the Port MacDonnell Community Emergency Response Team accepted their Premier's Certificate from Mayor Sage.

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Members of the Bollywood Team with Mayor Sage wearing his Bollywood outfit.



Members of the Tarpeena Cancer Support Group being presented their Premier's Certificate by Mayor Sage.

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