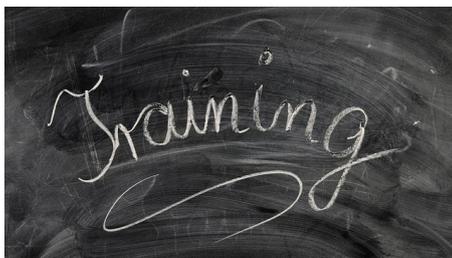


# Eastern Volunteers

## December 2016 Update

### Eastern Volunteer Training Calendar 2017

The team are currently working on our Training Calendar for 2017. If there is a specific topic that you would like to see offered, please don't hesitate to give us your feedback via our Volunteer Development Coordinator, Ruth Morgan – [ruth.morgan@easternvolunteers.org.au](mailto:ruth.morgan@easternvolunteers.org.au)



**Eastern Volunteers can help you with:**

**The promotion** of your organisation's volunteer recruitment campaign.

**Training workshops,** resources and consultancy service,

**Eastern Volunteers Corporate Volunteering** for organisation's that need the assistance of a group of volunteers to help with working bees, sorting, mass mailouts, events etc.

**Connecting** your organisation with others in our sector via our Network Meetings.

**Assistance** with event promotion via our social media platforms.

Suite 1, 36 New St,  
Ringwood, 3134  
Monday to Friday  
9am – 4.30pm  
Telephone: 9870 7822

### Eastern Volunteers Christmas Closure Dates

Eastern Volunteers Community Engagement service will close for the Christmas-New Year break from Sat 24th December and re-opens on Tuesday 3rd Jan 2017. Our Community Transport will close for clients on 16th December.

### SAVE THE DATE! NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 8-14 MAY 2017

Make sure you save the date for National Volunteer Week 2017, 8-14 May. We're busy planning this annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation's volunteers. Please contact Volunteering Australia if there is something you'd like to consider for next year's event by emailing them at [marketing@volunteeringaustralia.org](mailto:marketing@volunteeringaustralia.org)

**Where your shopping makes a difference**



**Christmas Gifts that make a Difference**

Are you looking for a Christmas presents for that person that has everything? You can shop online and give a gift that keeps giving by purchasing via Good Spender , an Australian online marketplace dedicated entirely to social enterprises that sell goods and services to benefit social causes. Good Spender is the place to discover the broad range of fantastic products sold by Australian social enterprises and allows you to interact with Australian social enterprises and support their mission by buying from them. For some other Christmas shopping ideas:

- \$15 will give buy repellent-treated mosquito nets so a family can sleep soundly and malaria free, via World Vision
- \$25 will give the gift of sight to a person suffering from cataracts via the Fred Hollows Foundation
- \$35 will help a newborn baby feel a mother's love with a bundle of essentials like bottles, nappies and wipes, via The Salvation Army's Wishes programme

## The Whitehorse Community Chest Twilight market, Thurs 22 Dec,



Support your local community whilst you do your Christmas shopping. The Whitehorse Community Chest market has over 60 stalls of fresh and wholesome produce, including farm fresh-fruit & veggies, eggs, freshly baked breads & cakes, nuts, spices, pickles and much more! Operated by the Whitehorse Community Chest in partnership with Deakin University with all profits going towards community programs and not-for-profit beneficiaries helping to alleviate disadvantage in the City of Whitehorse and surrounding areas. Their upcoming Christmas twilight market is on Thurs 22nd Dec in car park 1 alongside Burwood Hwy, Deakin University's Burwood Campus.

## Communities in Control Conference 2017



Thought leadership for the not-for-profit sector. Moonee Ponds, Melbourne. Monday and Tuesday, May 29-30, 2017 Communities in Control is Australia's most inspiring social movement. It's the biggest and best annual gathering of community sector workers, volunteers and supporters - each year bringing together a stellar list of speakers and hundreds of people who work in or care about community to listen, debate, network, exchange strategies, and recharge. Communities in Control is Australia's most inspiring annual gathering of community sector workers, volunteers and supporters, each year bringing together a stellar list of speakers and more than 1000 delegates to listen, debate, network, exchange tips and strategies, and - perhaps most importantly - recharge.

Since its inception in 2003 the conference has provided a platform for the Communities in Control principles:

- that for communities to survive and thrive, they must be in charge of their own destinies;
  - that communities must have the practical support they need to set their own priorities, design their own approaches, and create their own solutions; and
  - that when those first two principles are met, communities will be stronger, safer, healthier and more vibrant.
- The 2017 conference program will be unveiled in due course, at [www.communitiesincontrol.com.au](http://www.communitiesincontrol.com.au)

## Safeguarding the rights and interests of people with a disability



Office of the Public Advocate

Since its establishment in 1986, the Victorian Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) has promoted the rights, interests and dignity of people with disability (specifically intellectual impairment, mental illness, brain injury, physical disability or dementia) living in Victoria. The Public Advocate, OPA staff and more than 900 volunteers provide guardianship and advocacy services for people with disability by:

- acting as guardian when appointed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to make decisions in the best interests of a person with disability
- providing advice, education and information to the public, and to health, human services and legal professionals
- undertaking research and strategic advocacy to improve laws, policies and the delivery of services that affect people with disability
- supporting people with disability in interviews with Victoria Police, and advocating for the rights of people living in group homes, supported accommodation or receiving treatment in a mental health facility.

To access their services or for more information, please phone 1300 309 337 or see their website <http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/>

## Applications for Volunteer Grants now open

# GIVE HAPPY LIVE HAPPY

The Australian Government is investing \$10 million in Volunteer Grants in recognition of the hard work and many hours volunteers dedicate to not-for-profit organisations. The 2016 Volunteer Grants Program provides funding to support, encourage and increase participation in volunteering in local communities. Not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to purchase equipment, including computers, tools, air conditioners and sporting items. The funding can also help to contribute towards travel costs incurred when carrying out voluntary work or training. Important information on the program, including guidelines and application form, is available at [www.dss.gov.au/grants](http://www.dss.gov.au/grants) or by calling the Community Grants Hub Hotline on 1800 020 283.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE AT 2.00PM ON THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER 2016.**