



The Hon Carmel Tebbutt
Deputy Premier
Member for Marrickville

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MEDIA RELEASE

A BIG 'THANK YOU' FOR RPA VOLUNTEERS

Member for Marrickville and Minister for Health Carmel Tebbutt today thanked volunteers who donated their time at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) this year, joining them for a special lunch as part of NSW Health's Volunteer Appreciation Day (February 15).

Ms Tebbutt, staff from the Sydney South West Area Health Service and RPA Executive Director Ken Cahill attended the event to show appreciation to the hospital's 90 volunteers.

"The RPA volunteers make a wonderful contribution to the hospital, providing support and companionship to elderly and isolated patients, delivering flowers, working in the hospital archives and raising funds," Ms Tebbutt said.

"There is no simple way to calculate the contribution they make – a stay in hospital can be a difficult time and these volunteers try to make it that little bit easier.

"The team of volunteers who regularly visit RPA are from a range of backgrounds and vary in age from 18 to 80.

"They deserve to be extremely proud of the contribution they make and the rich tradition they are part of – volunteers have worked at RPA since 1919 when the hospital cared for World War One veterans.

"Among those volunteering at RPA today is Geoffrey Lean who has been with the hospital for six years.

"I am told that when Mr Lean hears a patient needs some extra clothing he visits them to talk through their likes and dislikes, then goes to the hospital's clothing pool and personally selects garments for them.

"Fundraising is another important task volunteers undertake. Here at RPA, volunteers Louise Millar, Bruna Pagura and the rest of the fundraising team hold a stall every fortnight selling their range of knitted and crocheted goods.

"I would like to thank all of the volunteers for the important work they do."

RPA Executive Director Ken Cahill also expressed his deep gratitude to the hospital's volunteers and said he would present formal certificates to each volunteer at the function.

"Our volunteers offer their personal time and energy in so many ways to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our patients," Mr Cahill said.

“They provide another welcome smile, friendship and compassion. Their loyalty and dedication is inspiring. We are indebted to them and indeed very lucky to have them,” he said.

NSW Health Volunteer Appreciation Day is celebrated each year to recognise volunteers who give their time to local health facilities.

There are 217 branches of the United Hospitals Auxiliaries across NSW, with more than 6,300 volunteers registered to provide support and comfort to hospital patients. UHA volunteers annually work more than one million unpaid hours and raise millions of dollars.