



**Government
of South Australia**

MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Iain Evans MP

Minister for Environment & Heritage
Minister for Recreation, Sport & Racing
Minister Responsible for Volunteers



Saturday, 31 March 2001

Volunteers Day - Public Holiday

The traditional Adelaide Cup public holiday in May will now become a special day set aside to honour the hundreds of thousands of South Australians who volunteer their services across the State.

The Minister Responsible for Volunteers Iain Evans says the third Monday in May will be a public holiday to celebrate both the Adelaide Cup Carnival and volunteering commencing this year, and then every year thereafter.

"Volunteers Day will be a chance for all South Australians to acknowledge the important role that volunteers play in our community," Mr Evans says.

"There are at least 280,000 South Australians who volunteer in our communities, and we want to create a true celebration to recognise this contribution and express our gratitude for the work of each and everyone one of them.

"Quite simply, if all the volunteers stopped volunteering, we would not have the level of support services in the community. The importance of volunteers to our State is absolutely undisputed.

"The State Government has been working on further developing and helping the volunteer community since 1999, when we hosted the first Volunteer Summit and Forum. This provided a great insight in to the issues and challenges currently facing the Volunteer Community."

Mr Evans says the change will have no effect on the public holiday or the running of the Adelaide Cup Carnival. In fact, both the South Australian Jockey Club and Thoroughbred Racing SA have supported the initiative.

"The Racing industry is delighted to be involved because it will give the industry an opportunity to also recognise the thousands of people who volunteer their time for racing," Mr Evans says.

"Volunteers are called on to tackle projects from a range of areas including the environment, local community, sport and racing, arts, health, tourism and welfare.

"The Adelaide Cup Carnival and Volunteers Day public holiday will give the Government and the community an opportunity to further support the work done by volunteers by recognising their contribution publicly."