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CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY – 5 DECEMBER 2024

International Volunteer Day is an annual occasion to celebrate and honour the contributions of volunteers who play a pivotal role in shaping and supporting our communities. This day serves as a reminder of the profound impact volunteers make and highlights the spirit of generosity that drives their efforts.

For emergency services organisations like ours, volunteers are the backbone to the critical services that we provide. Their dedication and commitment inspire us to work collaboratively, forging strong bonds to achieve shared goals. As part of this celebration, we also shine a spotlight on the many ways the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) staff collaborate with and support our volunteers. Together, we strive to make a meaningful impact, ensuring that volunteers have the resources, tools, and guidance they need to succeed in their roles.

December 5 is a special day to formally recognise our volunteers, however our commitment to working alongside each other spans the entire year. Recent initiatives that demonstrate our ongoing collaboration include:

- The release of the [Volunteer Hub Chatbot](#), developed in collaboration with volunteers, which has facilitated over 250 meaningful engagements between volunteers and DFES staff.
- Supporting volunteers to host 'Come and Try' community recruitment events.
- Collaborating with our young volunteers via the Young Peoples' Advisory Council (YPAC).
- Training an additional 21 volunteer [Peer Support Officers](#) across the State and increasing post-critical incident intervention services.
- Providing opportunities for cadets to showcase their skills at competitions and camps, including at this weekend's Youth in Emergency Services Challenge at the Mining and Emergency Response Competition (MERC).
- Diversity celebrations, such as the Pride Parade, attended by staff and volunteers, promoting inclusivity and community spirit.

DFES will join other organisations in celebrating the contributions of volunteers at the International Volunteer Day Garden Party hosted by Volunteering WA at Government House. This event provides an opportunity to express our gratitude and celebrate the incredible difference emergency services volunteers make across Western Australia.

On this special day and throughout the year, DFES thanks all volunteers for their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to making a difference.

STACEY NAUGHTIN
DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND SAFETY