Give Happy Live Happy – VICSES celebrates National Volunteer Week

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Close to 5000 Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteers give up their own time every year to play an important role in emergency response, planning and education in their local communities.

National Volunteering Week (11-17 May 2015) is a chance to celebrate and say thank you to more than 6 million Australian volunteers give happiness to others each year.

"2015 has been an eventful and productive year for VICSES volunteers" said Stephen Griffin VICSES CEO.

"Only recently, 292 VICSES volunteers returned from a deployment in NSW where they worked together with local emergency services to lend a hand to storm and flood ravaged communities."

"About 120 VICSES volunteers from 12 units also participated in a four-day search through dense bushland for Luke Shambrook after he went missing on Friday 3 April."

"It has also been a busy year for storm response with VICSES volunteers attending to over 10,000 requests for assistance in 2015 alone."

"I am continually impressed with the dedication and devotion that VICSES volunteers bring to their role, both in responding to emergencies as well as taking an active and positive role in preparing their local communities for emergencies" he said.

There are a number of ways that you can enquire about becoming a VICSES volunteer and make a real contribution to your community. The easiest is to visit the VICSES website at ses.vic.gov.au and select 'become a volunteer'. You can also call 1300 VICSES (1300 842 737) and select option 2.

- If you would like to organise interviews or photos of VICSES volunteers in your area, please contact the VICSES State Media Duty Officer who will connect you with your closest unit.