



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

Friday 18 October 2019

Volunteer support from all forms – Your Family, Our Family

This week the Victoria State Emergency (VICSES) kicked off the Your Family, Our Family campaign - celebrating the faces behind our incredible volunteers, all of whom support our members' rain, hail or shine, to ensure they are able to support their community.

With over 5,000 volunteers within VICSES, we are celebrating approximately 13,000 family members and friends, each of which who support VICSES every day.

Lisa Harris has been a VICSES volunteer for over five years and has played a strong leadership role with the Torquay Unit. As a volunteer Lisa supports her community to the best of her ability, but the training requirements, responding to emergency incidents and long days can take a toll on her family.

But it's because of her family this is all achievable. She credits getting through this, to her long term partner Jen, two beloved dogs and cats, and a large beehive. The support they all provide helps Lisa to perform this critical role to the community. Without it, her commitment as volunteer would be difficult.

Together, the family make many sacrifices when Lisa's pager goes off, and the fur babies often miss out on walks or have to leave the beach early. However, they are always forgiving and ready for cuddles upon her return.

Volunteer organisations often focus attention on the sacrifices their members make to serve their community, but the spotlight is rarely shined on those who support each volunteer, allowing them to respond to an emergency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Your Family, Our Family highlights the sacrifices family members and friends make on a daily basis, so that the Victorian community can feel a little safer knowing that VICSES volunteers will be there for any emergency.

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer
Phone: 1300 783 933
Email: media@ses.vic.gov.au



Quotes attributable to Lisa Harris - Unit member, VICSES Torquay Unit

"Being a VICSES volunteer has been so rewarding, I have a great team at the unit, and together we make a real difference to our community. I'm very lucky that I have the support of Ken, and the fur babies, I don't think I would be able to continue in this role if I didn't."

"Particularly after a tough incident involving trauma, just going home to my family and knowing I have their unspoken support and love, it makes it all worthwhile and a little easier".

Quotes attributable to Jen – Lisa's partner

"We're very proud of Lisa. It's truly commendable to see all the great work she is doing and the support she is providing to her community and fellow volunteers, Even if it's hard sometimes when she has to run off, it makes it all worthwhile and us very proud to see her selflessly helping those in need."

"It's rewarding in itself to be able to give Lisa the support she needs to continue in this leadership role as a volunteer. I know that my support for her in turn supports the community. I guess we're all doing our bit to help each other".

Quotes attributable to Tim Wiebusch - VICSES Chief Officer, Operations

"Your family, Our Family campaign is so important; we often have opportunities to thank our fantastic volunteers for all they do. This week is about the acknowledging the tremendous support and often sacrifices their family and friends make to ensure their loved one can serve the community."

"Family and friends play a huge part in SES volunteers being able to do what they do and I really want to thank each and every friend and family member who support our volunteers."