



November 8 2011

## Media Release

### Volunteer Alert and Community Directory Launch - Celebrating International Volunteer Managers Day

This week FNQ Volunteers Inc. will officially launch Volunteer Alert, their latest community support tool that Volunteer Managers in not-for-profit organisations throughout Far North Queensland can use to post information on their activities and to contact volunteers.

The Volunteer Alert Project was proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Building Rural Communities Program through Blueprint for the Bush, the National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding provided by the State and Federal government under the Community Resilience, Volunteer Alert Program Partnership Project, Volunteering North Queensland Inc., Community Central, My Community Directory, and FNQ Volunteers Inc.

As part of our celebration of International Volunteer Managers Day to recognise the contribution of Volunteer Managers within the community, FNQ Volunteers will launch Volunteer Alert at two special events to mark the occasion.

- The Volunteer Managers luncheon in Cairns on Thursday November 10 at the Serbian Cultural Information Centre 73-79 Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill from 11am to 1pm, and
- The Tableland Regional Council's event to launch their new Community Directory on November 11 at 10am in the Council's Atherton Service Centre, 45 Mabel Street, Atherton. In partnership with *My Community Directory* the Directory will provide free access to a simple and up-to-date directory of community services across the Tableland region.

Volunteer Managers and community organisations are welcome to attend and see first hand how to use Volunteer Alert and My Community Directory. Contact FNQ Volunteers on 4041 7400 to register your interest for the Cairns event, and to attend the Atherton event please RSVP to: [jessicam@trc.qld.gov.au](mailto:jessicam@trc.qld.gov.au) or phone: 1300 362242.

Ellen Barnes, CEO, FNQ Volunteers Inc., said she was excited with the launch of Volunteer Alert. *"This is going to be particularly useful during an Emergency when volunteers are needed and Managers can keep their volunteers informed,"* Mrs Barnes said.

Mr Parkin, CEO, My Community Directory said that *"The Volunteer Alert Project makes it easier for Volunteer Managers to contact their volunteers, there are no software costs and it is easy to buy SMS credits. While Volunteer Alert has been developed with financial support from government, there are also opportunities for local businesses to sponsor SMS credits that can be used by the community sector."*

### International Volunteer Managers Day

Celebrated every year on November 5, International Volunteer Managers Day (IVM Day) was founded and observed for the first time in 1999. Up until 2005, IVM Day shared its day of celebration with International Volunteers Day on December 5. However, in 2006, IVM Day moved to a stand alone date and was celebrated for the first time on November 1. An identified clash with key dates in Europe saw a final shift in 2008 to the day's current date of November 5.

### Available for interview contact:

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