



20 March 2009

AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY WORKERS

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, is encouraging people to recognise and celebrate the contribution made by people working in local community groups by encouraging nominations for the \$5000 Alcoa Foundation 2009 Outstanding Community Worker Award.

“We so often see people who tirelessly contribute to our community - not for the money they are paid, but because they’re committed,” Mr Piper said. “They give their all for their organisations, often with little recognition.”

“These awards are a chance to make sure these workers no longer remain the unsung heroes of Lake Macquarie. This is your opportunity to give them the recognition they deserve.”

The award is open to any paid worker from any community organisation. The winner will receive \$5000 to spend on his or her own choice of professional capacity building. The money can be spent on education and training, attending relevant conferences, paying for relevant books or subscriptions – whatever the worker needs to prepare them for the next level of excellence.

The Outstanding Community Worker Award is an initiative of the Alcoa Foundation and Our Community, which provides resources, training, advice and tools for Australia’s 700,000 community groups and schools.

Our Community CEO, Rhonda Galbally AO, said she was delighted that the Alcoa Foundation was once again supporting the unsung heroes of the community.

“The Alcoa Foundation Outstanding Community Worker Award generated a huge response when it was first offered in 2007. Nominations came in from all over the country containing stories of hard work, integrity, compassion and perseverance,” she said. “We are thrilled that once again there is an opportunity to recognise the community sector worker who best exemplifies the sector’s ideals of dedication, excellence, and service.”

Nomination forms and information can be found at www.ourcommunity.com.au/communityworkeraward.

Entries close on Friday, April 24, 2009.