

23 June 2009

Amana Living's volunteers are doubly valued

One of Western Australia's largest aged and community care providers has reinvented the role of volunteers within its organisation.

Rather than volunteering their time at other not for profit organisations as part of a commitment to social responsibility, Amana Living's head office staff have begun assisting their own colleagues working at the front line of service delivery.

The new head office volunteer program has seen employees from areas as diverse as marketing, IT and customer service leaving their desk jobs to engage in tasks including preparing meals, gardening, undertaking repairs, spring cleaning and painting – all on a voluntary basis.

Chief Executive Officer Ray Glickman explains that the new program has benefited the organisation in many ways; by improving morale, increasing personal fulfillment, focusing on team building, and enabling staff to feel that they have made a positive difference.

"Amana Living continually encourages opinions and contributions from staff members and the feedback gained from head office volunteers who have participated in this program has been tremendous," Mr Glickman said.

"Helping out in a care setting is an excellent way for our management staff to gain a much greater understanding of the needs of our residents and those in the community for whom we provide care, in addition to enabling them to experience the quality of our services first hand.

"In time we will be looking to all head office team members to participate in some front-line voluntary support as part of their paid work for Amana Living, and of course we will ensure it occurs at a place and in a way that suits them best."

The new Amana Living Volunteer Program is open to all staff located at the organisation's head office in Cottesloe. The head office volunteers will join the ranks of the organisation's existing 350 community volunteers.

Locals who are interested in learning more about volunteering can contact Debbie Ward, Volunteer Coordinator, on dward@amanaliving.com.au or via 9424 6348.

Amana Living delivers a diverse range of services and accommodation to over 800 residents living in five high care centres (nursing homes), 11 low care centres (hostels) and two dementia specific centres with co-located respite centres.

The service provider also offers a range of community services to support those who choose to remain in their own home, and operates 17 retirement villages.

ENDS

Media contact – Ruth Gourley 0434 330 384

MEDIA RELEASE

Note to editors:

"Amana Living" should not be shortened to Amana as this is a registered name of another company.