

## Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

### Gnowangerup District High School commended for supporting emergency services volunteer

Monday, 23 October 2023

- Nearly 60 WA businesses honoured at Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards
- Selfless approach plays key role in keeping Western Australian communities safe
- Cook Government thanks volunteers for their key role in boosting community safety
- Gnowangerup District High School honoured

Western Australian businesses have been celebrated for their unwavering support of emergency services volunteers over the past year at the 2023 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards (VERA).

Now in its 15th year, VERA recognises the critical role employers play in supporting employees so they can fulfil their duties as first responders.

VERA also acknowledges the self-employed volunteers who often close their doors or turn down jobs at a moment's notice to attend incidents.

Today, 57 businesses across Western Australia were announced as VERA recipients, joining a distinguished group of nearly 1000 businesses which have been recognised since the awards began in 2009.

The diverse group of recipients – ranging from small restaurants to large resource companies – includes 14 self-employed volunteers. Gnowangerup District High School was honoured for supporting their staff member Mandy Hanna who is a volunteer with the Gnowangerup SES.

With the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on high alert for another busy summer, WA businesses will again be a pillar of support to keep the State safe.

#### Comments attributed to Agricultural Region MLC Shelley Payne

"Emergency Service Volunteers play such an important role in our community, particularly in regional areas", she said.

"The role employers play in facilitating volunteers to attend important training, and to provide support in emergencies helps to keep us all safe."

"I'd like to express my gratitude to all the businesses who play a key role in keeping our community safe during times of emergency."

#### Comments attributed to Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson:

"On behalf of the Cook Government and all Western Australians, I would like to thank and commend these businesses that so generously give their workers time off to attend to an incident or lend a hand in the recovery program.

"It is through the commitment of our volunteers and their employers that DFES can provide a 24/7 service to more than 2.7 million people across the largest jurisdiction in the world.

"These businesses played a key role in allowing volunteers to attend major incidents over the past year when communities were at their most vulnerable, including January's Kimberley floods and the Donnybrook bushfires.

"They also provide ongoing support by permitting volunteers to take time off to attend incidents, training and taking part in community programs.

"We are also deeply indebted to those selfless self-employed volunteers who often sacrifice their own profits by closing their doors to respond to emergencies."

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*Attachment 1: Full List of 2023 VERA Recipients*

## **2023 VERA recipients**

AFGRI Equipment, Lake Grace  
AMH Group Earthworks  
Anarchy Wood Concepts  
Apple, Booragoon Retail Store  
Belridge Secondary College  
Blue Tongue Skills  
Broome Senior High School  
CBH Group, Lake Grace  
City of Swan  
Clean Cloth Cotton Traders  
Close Contracting  
CPC Engineering, Karratha Division  
CRISP Wireless  
Curtin University, Medical School and Health Innovation Research Institute  
David Jones, Claremont Quarter  
Department of Justice, Casuarina Prison  
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Audit Branch  
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Aboriginal Heritage Conservation  
Desert Speed Lab  
DM Spencer and LA Lucas  
Dunning's Fuel Distributors  
Educated by Nature  
Exmouth Freight and Logistics  
Finmec  
Fletcher International Export  
Fortescue Metals Group  
Gnowangerup District High School  
Hula Bar  
Karratha Senior High School  
KI Training and Assessing  
Kimberley Hotel  
Komatsu Australia  
Mouritz Airconditioning and Solar  
Nannup Hotel  
Prestige Renovations and Granny Flats  
PrintDATA  
Rio Tinto, HME Engineering  
Rockingham Volkswagen, Service Department  
Roger Northey  
Ross's Gardens  
Shire of Manjimup  
Shire of Pingelly  
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley  
South West Water Tanks and Water Cartage  
Southern Ports, Esperance  
SPACE Hydraulics  
Sparrow Early Learning Childcare Centre, Ellenbrook  
SRG Global Infrastructure  
Steel Trading Solutions  
Sugar Chef Patisserie  
Tom Price Senior High School  
WA Country Health Service, Pilbara Regional Office  
Wagin Mechanical Repairs  
We're All About Grout  
Westgold Resources Limited  
Yara Pilbara  
Zetta