



# MEDIA RELEASE

6 April 2011

## Homeless Volunteers Seeking a Need Home!

**Volunteering Gold Coast, the peak body for volunteers on the Coast, will shortly be homeless as its 5 year stay at the Surfers Paradise Transit Centre comes to an end. The upcoming refurbishment of the Transit Centre will see an end to the tenancy for Volunteering Gold Coast and it now urgently needs to find new premises.**

“Five years ago the Gold Coast City Council came to our rescue when the rent boom hit the Coast. Councillors provided us with wonderful support by providing us with space in the Transit Centre. When we had a robbery and fire in our offices they again offered us a temporary space while we got back on our feet. Council has been great in assisting us - which has served the cause of volunteering on the Gold Coast really well. Unfortunately we are victims of the redevelopment plans for the Transit Centre and with Council upgrading the Centre we can't afford the new commercial rent.” Volunteering Gold Coast General Manager, Richard Patterson commented.

“Council is giving us time to find a new home and we appreciate their flexibility, we are now looking for around 300 – 400 square metres to accommodate our team of paid and volunteer staff as soon as possible. We are hoping that there may be a landlord, a property owner or a real estate agent who would ultimately be supporting the 3000 community organisations on the Coast by supporting our key role as their peak body,” Mr Patterson added.

Volunteering Gold Coast provides weekly support for organisations with volunteers by recruiting and referring 2000 plus volunteers each year. It also develops volunteers and volunteer managers by providing free training, network meetings and business management skills. VGC also recruits volunteers for many major events on the Gold Coast, including the Gold Coast Marathon, Schoolies and motor sports events.

“Volunteering Gold Coast also has a Transport Service which transports residents in need of cancer treatment, we assist young people with disabilities to attend appointments and we transport aged folk to social outings and to access a wide array of services. We have 90 volunteers in our team who drive our vehicles, they conduct interviews, they complete administration work, conduct training and work hard to improve the lives of vast numbers of residents of the Coast,” Mr Patterson stated.

Any real estate agent, property owner or business able to assist Volunteering Gold Coast in its efforts to find new premises should contact the General Manager, Richard Patterson, on 5526 2811 between 9am and 4pm on business days.

~ ENDS ~

### Media Contact

Chantel Charchalis  
Marketing and Public Relations Officer

Volunteering Gold Coast  
Ph. 5526 2811 or Email [chantelc@vgcvs.org.au](mailto:chantelc@vgcvs.org.au)  
[www.volunteeringgc.com.au](http://www.volunteeringgc.com.au)