

## **Southern Volunteering SA Inc**

### **Policy Statement**

#### **The involvement of ex offenders as volunteers**



As an organisation committed to equality and diversity, we recognise the contribution that all people can make as volunteers and so we welcome enquiries of interest from everyone. We recognise too, that many potential volunteers have criminal records and are reluctant to apply for voluntary work where this would involve the disclosure of their criminal conviction history. We understand that people are often ashamed and embarrassed about their cautions and convictions and/or fear they will not be treated fairly because of them.

Please rest assured that if we do ask about criminal records we will handle the information you provide in confidence. Should you disclose them, we will not take into account convictions deemed spent under the South Australia Spent Convictions Act 2009, unless the position is exempt from the Act.

If the position is exempt from the Act, we will ask for disclosure of both spent and unspent convictions.

For relevant positions we will also ask you to apply for a National Police Certificate (NPC). If the certificate confirms what you have already told us we will confirm your appointment. If the NPC reveals information that we were not previously aware of, we will discuss the matter with you before making a final decision.

We work on the assumption that people applying for voluntary work in order to help others, meet new people, develop new skills etc., have no ulterior motive in seeking such work. With this in mind, we will wherever possible provide opportunities for people, and do so in ways that will not put you or our service users at risk

**Date: September 2014**