



Office of the Commissioner for  
Public Employment

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commissioner for  
**public** employment

An official publication of the Commissioner for Public Employment

Issue: 01/2005

# NTPS bulletin

## **Northern Territory Government response to the humanitarian crisis in Asia.**

I am sure you would agree with me that the devastation and loss suffered by the people of South and South East Asia as a result of the earthquake and tsunami disaster has affected us all profoundly and this is reflected by the depth of support for the aid effort by the Australian public. The Chief Minister has announced the Government's aid donation; however, other activities are taking place and some employees have expressed an interest in assisting in some way. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a brief overview of activities across Government and how you may assist.

### **Counter Disaster Council**

The NT Government is monitoring events closely through the Counter Disaster Council and is standing by to assist with aid effort at short notice, including the deployment of specialist staff to the region if necessary. The immediate focus is on providing shelter, sanitation and public health in the affected regions and the Council will liaise directly with Chief Executive Officers in identifying specialist staff who may be required to assist with these tasks should a team need to be assembled.

### **Volunteering as part of an NTG response**

Some employees have registered an interest in volunteering to assist as part of an NT Government sponsored response team. If you are contemplating doing so you should discuss this with your supervisor or manager in the first instance who will forward this information to your Chief Executive Officer. Your interest will then be considered should the Counter Disaster Council need to assemble such a team. As mentioned previously the skills requirement at this stage is highly specialised.

### **Volunteering as part of a non-government aid effort**

Employees of course can volunteer their services to a non-government organisation at any time and normal leave provisions apply in such circumstances. You should also discuss this with your supervisor or manager to ensure your agency's operational needs are met during your absence.

*Australian Volunteers International* is coordinating activities nationally in this area and further information should be sought from that organisation directly at <http://www.australianvolunteers.com/home>.

## **Secondment to a non-government organisation**

It may be the case that sometime later employees may be seconded to a non-government organisation. The details of how these arrangements will operate will be developed at an appropriate time.

## **Financial assistance**

The Australian Government has advised that the most effective form of assistance at this stage is for cash donations to be made to recognised aid organisations, some of which are listed below. I encourage you to assist in any way you can.

Australian Red Cross : 1800 811 700

Care Australia : 1800 020 046

Oxfam Australia : 1800 034 034

UNICEF : 1300 732 240

World Vision Australia : 13 32 40

## **Further information**

My staff are available to assist with employment queries related to the NTG response on 8999 4282.



JOHN KIRWAN  
Commissioner for Public Employment

12 January 2005

