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**HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

………..Health Service invites applications by volunteers to participate in an innovative program to support older people in hospital with dementia or patients who experience confusion during their hospital stay.

Volunteering has many benefits. Apart for the satisfaction experienced from helping others, volunteering is also a way of learning and gaining new skills and developing new friendships.

The …………..hospital hopes to recruit a significant number of volunteers for the program. Successful applicants will be provided with initial training and ongoing support to ensure confidence for volunteers and safety for patients.

The aim of the program is to improve the overall hospital experience for people with dementia or other memory and thinking problems, when they are admitted to hospital. Volunteers will provide one on one support aimed at assisting those experiencing dementia or confusion to feel more relaxed. In addition volunteers provide assistance to patients who require help with eating and drinking.

Staff are enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with volunteers. They value the support given to patients as well as recognising the value of volunteers complementing the current care provided.

Volunteers are expected to participate in the program for a few hours each week, with the specific days and times flexible.

Those interested in taking part in this volunteer program are encouraged to contact ………………..for further information and an application package. Applications close……………………..

**Ends**

Media Note: for an interview opportunity please contact…………………….

Published Oct 2016. Next Review 2025. © State of NSW (Agency for Clinical Innovation)