



Media release

Monday 22 September 2014

Volunteers wanted to help in emergencies

Volunteers are being sought to help their communities in an emergency.

The volunteers would help to run or staff welfare centres. Welfare centres can be opened in an emergency and provide assistance to anyone who can't stay in their home. The centres can provide accommodation, food, support and advice for people. Volunteers may also need to do other tasks including dropping off food parcels or collecting supplies.

"We are looking for people who have empathy for others and want to support people in their community at a time of need," says Diane Chesmar, who is the emergency Welfare Manager for Selwyn District Council.

Having a good knowledge of local communities would also be helpful, but is not essential, she says.

Mrs Chesmar says that welfare centres help to make sure people have their basic needs met including food, shelter and assistance.

"Volunteers who staff the centres play a vital role in the response to an emergency and it can be very rewarding to help people in your community at a time when they most need assistance."

After the Canterbury earthquakes a number of welfare centres operated in Christchurch City and Selwyn District to support families who couldn't stay in their homes.

Training would be provided for volunteers and people interested in volunteering would need to be available to attend training sessions, emergency exercises and assist in actual emergencies.

To find out more about the role Diane Chesmar on 021 0292 6588 or email diane.chesmar@selwyn.govt.nz.

Ends

For more information contact:

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