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Nominate an outstanding young Queensland volunteer now

The search continues for Queensland's hardworking young volunteers to be recognised and rewarded as part of this year's Young Volunteer Awards.

Member for Ipswich and Parliamentary Secretary for Communities and Youth Ms Rachel Nolan, today reminded teachers, community leaders and organisations to nominate outstanding young people, aged 12 to 25, who have been involved in volunteering activities during the past 12 months.

"The Queensland Young Volunteer Awards present a wonderful opportunity to recognise the outstanding voluntary work of our young people," said Ms Nolan.

"Volunteering plays a valuable role in not only giving those involved an opportunity to reach out and support their local community, but it can also provide valuable job skills and different life experiences.

"Entries close on Friday 22 February so time is running out to nominate our valued young volunteers in Ipswich."

Previous winners include young people who provide support for refugee families, running sporting competitions and being involved in organisations such as Boystown and the Police Citizens Youth Club.

Jess Wellard, who received a Young Volunteer Award last year, said that winning one of the prestigious awards had opened up new networks and assisted her volunteer work tutoring refugees.

"The benefit of winning an award was making connections which assisted the volunteer program I coordinated," Ms Wellard said.

"The formal recognition made it easier to talk to government and potential stakeholders about future directions for the program."

Teachers, community leaders and organisations are encouraged to nominate young volunteers in the individual or group categories.

Entries for the 2008 Queensland Young Volunteer Awards close Friday 22 February. The eight winners will be announced at a ceremony in Brisbane in April.

For more information about the awards or to download a nomination form, visit www.communities.qld.gov.au
<<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/>>