

**ITEM NO: 1**

**SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE REGIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD**

**FILE NO:**

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**Recommendation:**

*That the Council present the Sydney Greater West Senior Volunteer of the Year Award to Sabine Erika of Blackheath.*

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The Sydney Greater West winners of the Volunteer of the Year Award were recently announced and Sabine Erika, of Blackheath, is Senior Volunteer of the Year for work with the Alternatives to Violence Project and Zonta.

The Sydney Greater West Region includes councils at Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith.

The Regional winners will go on to a State-wide judging process for the inaugural NSW Volunteer of the Year Award.

Sabine Erika has been a volunteer with the Alternatives to Violence Project for seven years. During this time she developed and implemented comprehensive prison and parolee programs which involved training inmates as facilitators and then coordinating these facilitators into teams to deliver workshops. Through these programs more than 20, three-day workshops have been run each year, and over 70 inmate facilitators have been trained.

Sabine has volunteered Zonta, a world-wide organisation working for the human rights of women, for four year. She initiated the adoption of women in jail to provide much needed equipment for expectant inmates, just one of the many projects she has been involved in. Sabine has demonstrated her willingness to volunteer her time, energy and skills to improve the lives of women in her local community.

In presenting this award Council wants to recognise and pay tribute to all volunteers in the Blue Mountains

Each year thousands of people in the Mountains give up some of their free time to help others, whether it's in sport, through health and community services, the emergency response organisations or helping the welfare of others.

It is with great pleasure that the Council presents this Award to Sabine Erika

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