



The Minister for Citizenship and Communities, The Hon. Mr Victor Dominello MP, has called for registrations of interest for organisations interested in auspicing a Timebanking pilot in 2014.

Timebanking operates by members earning 'time credits' when they provide a service to another Timebank member, such as volunteering to cook, walk their dog or teaching them something new. They 'bank' these time credits and then redeem them later on a service they or their family need, such as help with the shopping, driving to appointments, gardening, tutoring, swimming lessons, or some handy work around the home.

To sign up to the Timebanking registration of interest or for more information, please visit www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au.



CASE STUDIES OF TIMEBANKING

Michelle

Michelle's son attends Wyong Public School. Michelle was one of many parents who responded when Principal Graham Holmes asked parents to give 10 hours of volunteering time per year, to support the school and their children's learning.

Michelle attended Wyong Public School herself 'so when my son started kindergarten I thought I would volunteer half a day a week.'

'I help out with literacy and numeracy. I change the home readers over and glue in student homework sheets. I also help in the canteen for half an hour a week. Small things really, but it's very rewarding to see that I am helping, I am making a difference.'

Michelle is also a Timebanking member. This free service enables Michelle to get a credit for each hour of volunteering, and to receive something from another member.

'It's not about giving a lot of your time; it's about more people giving a little bit. When the school signed up as a Timebanking organisation, I registered as a Timebank user.'

In return for her volunteering, Michelle has already received support from another Timebanking group – 'I have been able to use the time that I volunteer at school to get some weeding done at home and this has given me more time with my family.'

Mr Holmes says 'without volunteers Wyong Public School wouldn't be as strong, and the students would not have such a good learning experience. Everyone's contribution helps and every volunteer makes a difference.'

Mr Holmes would welcome other volunteers from the community and he is encouraging all the volunteers in the school to sign up for Timebanking. Michelle says 'every volunteer should be recognised and their contribution celebrated and Timebanking is a great way to do that.'