



TRISH DOYLE MP

STATE MEMBER FOR THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

PRIVATE MEMBERS STATEMENT

Blue Mountains Food Services

28 May 2025

I celebrate the extraordinary community spirit and invaluable contribution of the volunteers at Blue Mountains Food Services, who play an essential role in supporting our most vulnerable community members. As we have heard over the past week, volunteers are the heartbeat of our communities, particularly in the Blue Mountains. Nowhere is that more evident than in the work done by the incredible individuals who serve with Blue Mountains Food Services.

Those volunteers are more than just helpers; they are the lifeblood that sustains our community, offering warmth, connection and care to those who need it most. Whether it is delivering nutritious meals each week, offering a friendly face to those who live alone, or simply providing a much-needed chat, those volunteers have a profound impact.

From the heartfelt messages of thanks received from clients, it is clear that their kindness is deeply appreciated. Many clients share how their volunteers bring joy to their day, brightening even the darkest mornings with their smiles, their cheerful greetings and the simple act of showing up. The volunteers at Blue Mountains Food Services demonstrate that giving time is not just about delivering a meal; it is about delivering hope, connection and a sense of belonging. As one client beautifully expressed, "Sometimes you are the only person I see or speak to all day, and even though you are always busy, you take the time to make me feel cared for." Their simple acts of kindness, combined with their ongoing commitment, make a world of difference.

This is not just about feeding the body; it is about nourishing the soul. Volunteers at Blue Mountains Food Services support a sense of community, combat loneliness and help to reduce social isolation. Their efforts go far beyond what we see in the delivery of food. They contribute to the wellbeing, dignity and quality of life for many older Australians in the Blue Mountains. The resilience and warmth of our volunteers help to ensure that the Blue Mountains remains a place of care and support, especially in times of need. Over the years, those volunteers have been there through the toughest challenges.

Whether through bushfires, the pandemic or the ongoing struggles faced by many in our community, they continue to show up week after week to help keep us all connected.

On behalf of my community, I say a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers at Blue Mountains Food Services and all the volunteers across my community in the Blue Mountains. I look forward to hosting Jane Dinsdale-Scanlon, Rose Miners and June Bonn for lunch next week. I turn up to all sorts of events and celebrations in my electorate, and I offer a lucky door prize of lunch at our fancypants dining room, the Strangers' Restaurant, here at Parliament. People are overjoyed to jump on the train, come and sit down and have a meal, and I usually ask if they want to bring someone along.

Next week, the Minister for Women, who is responsible for volunteers in this State, will join us for lunch. I look forward to hosting Jane, Rose and June and thanking them for the wonderful luncheon they put on for all of our volunteers last week. Their generosity, kindness and support make our beautiful Blue Mountains a better place to live. They are unsung heroes, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them. I thank the volunteers at Blue Mountains Food Services for everything they do. May they themselves continue to be blessed for the blessings they give.



Trish Doyle MP

Member for Blue Mountains

Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Heritage