



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **New General Manager strengthening international partnerships**

Australian Business Volunteers has begun 2015 with several new staff and an internal restructure including the creation of the new position of General Manager - International Services.

According to ABV CEO Sarah O'Connor the changes were prompted by ABV's growing number of partnerships in the corporate sector and internationally. "Over the last year we've been focused on establishing strong partnerships with institutions in developing countries and corporates interested in expanding their involvement in international volunteering".

The General Manager position has been filled by Melinda Spink.

Melinda has fifteen years' experience in international development working for government, in research organisations and as a consultant. Melinda's expertise includes public health and sustainability and she has extensive experience in designing and leading large scale integrated development projects. She has previously held executive level positions in CSIRO where she managed multidisciplinary teams undertaking applied research into the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development, and was Director of a CSIRO AusAID Alliance aimed at improving the impact of international development investment.

"The position will have responsibility for guiding the implementation of ABV's international programs" said CEO Sarah O'Connor. "The International Services Team delivers ABV's long-standing programs as well as an expanding range of programs as we continue to grow our partnerships."

Two new project managers have also joined the ABV staff, Thu Minh Tran, and Petra Weisner, both of whom have strong project management backgrounds, while the new position of Communications Manager has been filled by Patrick Reeder – a former political staffer with international volunteering experience.

"With our new structure, new team members, and new partnerships and programs getting underway, 2015 will be an exciting year for ABV" said Sarah O'Connor.

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