



WA Volunteering Strategy

The WA Volunteering Strategy has been developed to guide Government and the community to support and recognise the valuable contribution of volunteering.

Vision

Volunteering is promoted, supported and valued by the Western Australian community.

Volunteering is defined as “time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.”

Volunteers create, support and sustain organisations delivering services and activities that are essential to our communities and support them to thrive.

About **80%** of Western Australian's volunteer for more than 315 millions hours each year.

Volunteering is WA's largest industry based on participation, and it delivers high returns to the community.

Every dollar invested by the State's 5,000 volunteer-involving organisations returns \$4.50 in benefits to the community.

\$39 billion – estimated social, economic and cultural value of volunteering in WA.

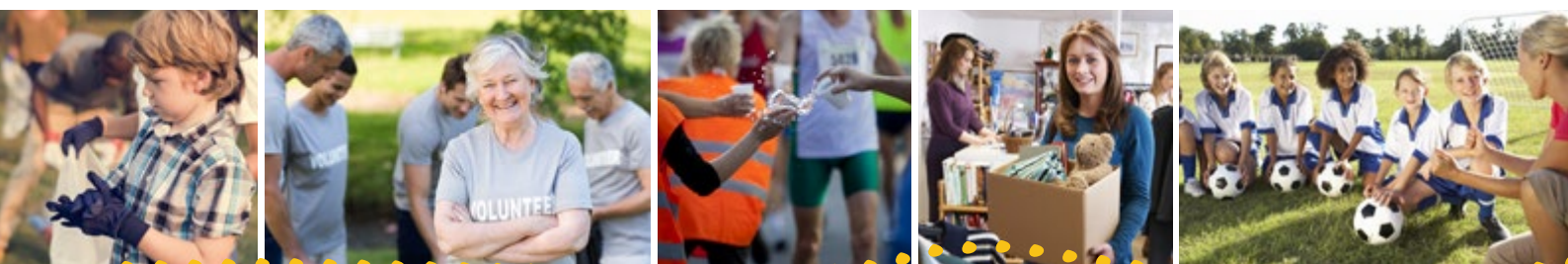
Volunteering delivers important benefits to the community, individuals and organisations, including:

- growing community strength, resilience and inclusiveness through active social and civic participation
- generating innovative responses to community issues and challenges
- harnessing the collective strengths and assets of the community and its members
- providing pathways to participation, inclusion, skills development and employment
- enabling and driving economic growth
- generating a personal sense of purpose, meaning, achievement and wellbeing.

Volunteers ensure that Western Australia's community sport, recreation, arts and culture thrives.

The nature of volunteering, and needs and expectations of volunteers, are changing. This is a result of, and in response to, changes to the broader social and economic landscape. This presents challenges to be addressed as well as opportunities to be harnessed: volunteering-involving organisations and the volunteering sector need to be responsive to these changes.

Celebrating and supporting volunteers, and ensuring the sector's sustainability requires a whole of community effort.



Focus Area 1

Responding to emerging trends and issues.

Data shows uneven trends in Australian volunteering. Understanding these trends and issues will enable volunteer-involving organisations to adapt and develop targeted volunteering that suit the needs and preferences of potential volunteers.

Outcomes

The volunteering sector can recognise and respond to the changing needs of volunteers.

Strategies

- Support or provide flexible volunteering opportunities.
- Understand and respond to what motivates people.
- Undertake research on emerging trends and issues.
- Promote corporate volunteering.
- Build the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations to respond to emerging trends and issues.
- Retain volunteers and broaden the scope of volunteer involvement.
- Minimise the financial and administrative barriers to volunteering.

Focus Area 3

Support volunteer-involving organisations.

The capacity of volunteer-involving organisations to attract, engage, manage and retain volunteers is critical to positive volunteering experiences and the sector's sustainability. Volunteer involving organisations may require support and resources to manage volunteers and respond to emerging challenges, opportunities and changes.

Outcomes

Communities and organisations can involve volunteers effectively for their mutual benefit.

Strategies

- Support volunteer-involving organisations to manage risk, legal liability and legislative requirements.
- Training for volunteer-involving organisations.
- Administrative and governance support for volunteer-involving organisations.
- Reduce the financial burden on volunteer-involving organisations.

Focus Area 2

Encourage and facilitate participation in community life through volunteering.

Diversity brings with it different skills, experiences and perspectives that can benefit the organisations and the community. However, people from diverse backgrounds may face barriers that prevent them from volunteering. Understanding what prevents or deters people from volunteering will enable organisations to develop targeted and tailored engagement strategies.

Outcomes

More Western Australians, from all backgrounds, are engaged in volunteering and enriched by the experience.

Strategies

- Raise awareness and understanding of volunteering and its benefits.
- Targeted promotion of volunteering opportunities.
- Address barriers to volunteering.
- Attract and engage volunteers from diverse backgrounds.
- Reduce barriers to recruitment and participation.
- Support volunteering in regional Western Australia.
- Support and encourage the use of technology.

Focus Area 4

Recognise and value volunteers and volunteering.

Meaningful recognition is one way to motivate and retain volunteers. Community-wide promotion and celebration of the value of volunteering is critical to maintaining and sustaining a culture of volunteering.

Outcomes

- Volunteers are recognised and celebrated.
- Volunteering is recognised and valued for the contribution it makes to our communities.

Strategies

- Support volunteer recognition programs.
- Develop innovative ways to recognise and value volunteering.
- Provide training and development opportunities for volunteers.