

Community life and volunteering

Victorian Volunteer Strategy

Help develop Victoria's new Volunteer Strategy

The Victorian Government has committed to develop and implement a Volunteer Strategy to support and enhance volunteerism in Victoria.

Volunteers are a vital part of Victoria's social, economic, cultural and environmental fabric, and deliver immense value to Victoria – for communities, places and individuals.

It is estimated that more than 1.5 million Victorians participate in formal volunteering activities per year. The actual number of volunteers and their impact is thought to be far greater, with many more people contributing through informal or community support and not self-identifying as volunteers.

But while Victoria is home to a vibrant culture of giving, volunteers and volunteering are changing. For volunteering to thrive into the future it requires both a bold vision and practical approaches.

How can you participate?

Have your say - as community members, volunteers, leaders and managers of volunteers or community organisations, or supporting organisations.

We have developed two surveys to capture insights from different groups with an interest in volunteering. Both surveys will help us to better understand the current state of volunteering in Victoria - from a community and volunteer sector perspective - and will be used to inform the development of the Volunteer Strategy.

Community life and volunteering

Our people, environment and the community are supported by a wide range of contributions, and this survey is intended for all members of the Victorian public. We are interested in all views and experiences, from a wide range of perspectives, including if you have never volunteered.

We encourage you to share your thoughts by completing the *Community life and volunteering* survey, online at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-volunteer-strategy>.

You may also complete this paper survey and return to:

Victorian Volunteer Strategy
Department of Health and Human Services
Level 12, 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

The survey is open until 24 November 2019.

Privacy Collection Notice

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) is committed to protecting your privacy.

The department will collect and handle demographic information collected via this form for the purposes of informing Victoria's new Volunteer Strategy, and ensuring the Strategy reflects the diversity of views across Victorian communities. The collection of this information will not directly identify an individual, and the department will not share the information you provide via this survey with any third parties.

If you choose not to complete the survey, the department will not be able to take your views and experiences into account in developing the Victorian Volunteer Strategy.

The personal information we collect through the 'stay up to date' form will only be used for providing you with updates on the consultation process and development of the strategy.

You are able to access your information at any time by emailing volunteer.strategy@dhhs.vic.gov.au or for more information on the department's privacy management, please visit our website on <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/privacy-policy>.

To receive this publication in an accessible format email [Volunteer.Strategy](mailto:Volunteer.Strategy@volunteer.strategy@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <volunteer.strategy@dhhs.vic.gov.au>

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Available at [Volunteer.Strategy](http://www.volunteer.vic.gov.au/strategy) <www.volunteer.vic.gov.au/strategy>

Survey

Please answer this survey if you are a member of the Victorian public and have an interest in volunteering, regardless of whether you have volunteered or not.

About you

To help us understand the diverse needs of Victorians, please tell us a little about yourself.

1. What is your age?

- 18 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 50
- 51 - 75
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

2. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Other
- Prefer not to say

3. Where do you live? Please provide the postcode.

4. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

5. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

6. Do you identify as LGBTI?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

7. Do you identify as a person with a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

8. Are you?

- Working full-time
- Working part-time
- Studying full-time
- Studying part-time
- Looking for work
- Caring for someone due to age, illness or disability
- Full time parent / home responsibilities
- Other, please specify

9. What aspects of society are you most passionate about? You may select up to 5 responses.

- Arts, culture and media
- Business, professional or union
- Welfare and community
- Education and training
- Emergency services
- Environment
- Health
- Parenting, children and youth
- Religious
- Sport and recreation
- Other, please specify

Community life

10. Have you received support from a volunteer / someone in your community (excluding family members)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

11. If yes, please tell us more about that experience. (1,000 characters)

12. In the last 12 months, have you freely given your time to any of the following?

- A not-for-profit organisation (e.g. a sporting club, political party, church or faith-based group, multicultural organisations)
- For government-sponsored organisations (e.g. helping at schools/ parents committee, hospitals, emergency services, land care groups)
- For private organisations (e.g. aged care facility, festivals or events)
- To people in the community, excluding family members (e.g. peer support network, looking after children, providing home or personal assistance or giving someone a lift)
- Promoting community enhancement (e.g. campaigning for more traffic lights near a shopping centre)
- Reducing crime and promoting safety (e.g. neighbourhood watch)
- Contributing to an online community (e.g. moderating forums or providing data on local wildlife)
- Other, please specify

13. Where were these activities located?

- Online or from home
- Within walking distance from home
- A short drive/trip by public transport from home
- An hour or more by car/public transport from home
- Other, please specify

14. From the list, what are your top 3 values in giving your time / supporting your community?

- Meeting new people
- Helping others and supporting the community
- Supporting my family/ children's activities
- Learning new skills
- Having fun
- Creating meaning and purpose in life
- Reduces isolation and loneliness
- Builds personal resilience
- Other, please specify

15. Do you have any other comments on giving your time to the community? (1,000 characters)

Volunteering

16. Do you participate in organised volunteering, or have you done so in the past?

- Yes, currently
- No, but have previously
- No, never (go to question 21)

17. If you answered 'yes' or 'no, previously', please tell us a little more about what you do (or use to do)? (1,000 characters)

18. When thinking about your most recent volunteer involvement, how satisfied were you with the experience?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

19. Would you like to make any comments about your experience? (1,000 characters)

20. Where was your volunteering located?

- Online or from home
- Within walking distance from home
- A short drive/trip by public transport from home
- An hour or more by car/public transport from home
- Other, please specify

21. Do you, or did you face any of the following barriers to volunteering?

- Inflexible volunteering opportunities
- Lack of volunteering roles that are in line with my interests
- Cost associated with volunteering
- Access to transport
- Not sure if I have the skills or confidence
- Processes for identity/ police checks
- Inability to participate due to disability
- Communication barriers such low English ability
- Too many forms to fill out
- Not enough time
- Lack of cultural understanding
- Change in health or life circumstances
- Other, please specify

22. In five years time, how much volunteering are you likely to be doing?

- More
- About the same
- Less
- Not at all
- Not sure

23. How did you, or where would you, look for volunteering opportunities?

- School/University career councillor
- Library / community notice board
- Through friends or family
- Online search
- Social media
- Local newspaper
- Volunteer resource centre
- Community centre / neighbourhood house / community health centre
- Sporting organisation
- School / kindergarten
- Directly with an organisation you know
- Not sure
- Other, please specify

24. What could be done to provide volunteering opportunities to more people? (2,000 characters)