

what is twitter?

Twitter is a free platform which allows users to communicate through short, 140 character messages (or 'tweets'). It's a bit like text messaging on the internet. Users can share information publically with a large group of people (a tweet), or privately with a specific person (a direct message).

Twitter allows users to follow other users to keep up-to-date with what they are saying and sharing.

You can also follow a particular issue, event or idea (through the use of hashtags), and can join conversations, share information, links and even pictures.

You don't have to be friends to follow someone on twitter – you can follow friends, colleagues, celebrities, politicians or organisations.



how do i use twitter?

It's easy – sign up for a free account at www.twitter.com, choose a username, and you are ready to go.

You might want to setup a personal account, or one for your organisation.

Get tweeting! Your tweets will be visible to your followers – and to anyone searching by hashtags included in your tweet.

Use the search tool to find users you want to follow. Users can share links on twitter - just add a URL to your tweet.

Twitter applications can be downloaded on most mobile phones – meaning you can tweet from anywhere, including the Volunteering Australia conference.

hashtags

Hashtags are a way of following what is being said around a particular issue/event/theme.

The hashtag for the Volunteering Australia

Conference is **#VolAus11** so be sure to include this in your tweets about the conference.

Simply search for **#VolAus11** on twitter to join in the conversation around the conference – it's a great way to share resources, give feedback, ask questions and network with other delegates.



twitter at the **volunteering australia** conference

Volunteering Australia and Pro Bono Australia staff will be regularly checking twitter, so it's a great way to give conference feedback and to pose questions for speakers.

Pro Bono Australia's News team will be reporting live from the conference, and the **#VolAus11** twitter feed will be live on display at the Pro Bono Australia News desk.

All of our coverage will be sent out on twitter via **@probononews**, and will include the **#VolAus11** hashtag –or you can access our full conference coverage at www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news

Free wi-fi will be available for all conference attendees - and remember, it's not rude to tweet from your mobile phone during sessions.

Twitter is an open, democratic place – there is nobody moderating comments or telling you what to say. But please, behave professionally and with respect and courtesy – your tweets are publically viewable and searchable.



Don't know who to follow on twitter? Here are some of the organisations and speakers behind the Volunteer Australia National Conference (and some of our favourites) to get you going:

- @ProBonoNews** Our breaking news twitter – follow us to keep up to date with all the breaking news that affects Australia's Not for Profit and community organisations.
- @ProBonoAust** The voice of Pro Bono Australia - The online Hub for people engaged with Australia's Not for Profit Communities
- @VolunteeringAus** Volunteering Australia is the national peak body working to advance volunteering in the Australian community.
- @EddieL** Dr Edwina Luck Senior Lecturer, QUT Business School QUT Brisbane: Marketing Senior Lecturer, social network researcher, wanna be geek & cat slave.
- @DMK52** Donna Keher, Chief of the Partnership and Communications Division, United Nations – “a career in the UN; a supporter of volunteerism; a fan of Australia; a scuba diver”
- @JanOwenAM** CEO of the Foundation for Young Australians, uber social entrepreneur. Order of Australia for service to children and young people.
- @tanya_plibersek** Tanya Plibersek - Member for Sydney, Minister for Human Services, Minister for Social Inclusion
- @CSISocialImpact** The Centre for Social Impact aims to create beneficial social impact in Australia through teaching, research, measurement and the promotion of public debate
- @VolunteeringQld** Volunteering Queensland - The peak body for volunteering in Qld, Australia.
- @ACOSS** The Australian Council of Social Service is the peak body of the community sector and the voice for low income Australians.
- @PhilanthropyAus** Philanthropy Australia: national peak body for philanthropic orgs & individuals; non-profit membership body. RT/news ≠ endorsement.
- @JohnFalzon** St Vincent de Paul Society Chief Executive: Advocate with deep interest in philosophy, society, politics and poetry.
- @ConnectingUp** Connecting You to the Nonprofit Sector through Information & Technology :|: A TechSoup Global Partner
- @matrixonboard** Matrix on Board is about empowering nonprofits to be great

