Dear <Name>

Recently you will have heard from Volunteering Australia about their Federal Election 2016 Vote for Volunteering campaign. Today I am sending you an email on behalf of the six million Australian voters who are also volunteers and reminding you to take the pledge to Vote for Volunteering.

Volunteering in Australia contributes an estimated 743 million hours of time to our community and $290 billion in economic value. <You may want to insert an example of your volunteer work here>

I’m joining Volunteering Australia this federal election campaign to ask candidates to take the pledge and Vote for Volunteering.

A Vote for Volunteering is a vote to acknowledge that volunteering supports the work of the federal government through the delivery of core programs, making a significant contribution to the Australian economy and society. It further acknowledges that the delivery of successful volunteering programs requires adequate funding that must keep pace with demand. It shows concern for reports that show that the number of volunteers in Australia is decreasing and a belief that Government must show the leadership required to encourage more people into volunteering.

It also seeks:

* **A new National Volunteering Strategy** that is non-partisan and developed in partnership with Volunteering Australia and other relevant sectors
* **A commitment to increased federal funding to volunteering** that is managed sustainably, consistently and transparently, and that is allocated as a result of independent research and collaboration with the sector in the form of a Productivity Commission inquiry
* **An acknowledgement that the work of volunteering crosses all portfolios of the Government**, and must be administered accordingly
* **An increase in support for volunteering in areas with critical gaps**, such as aged care, disability services, emergency management and youth.

Please find attached a copy of Volunteering Australia’s Federal Election platform as well as a Vote for Volunteering pledge. We urge you to also share your pledge on social media using the hashtag, #Vote4Volunteering.

Alternatively, you can take the pledge now at [www.volunteeringaustralia.org/vote4volunteering](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/vote4volunteering).

Every candidate who signs the pledge will be listed on the Vote for Volunteering website and will feature in a special email bulletin to the volunteering community in the week of the election.

Yours in Volunteering,

<Name>