

# ➤ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERING

Target Group: **Year 10**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **Civics and Citizenship**

- + Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australian, regional and global contexts (ACHCS102).
- + Identify, gather and sort information and ideas from a range of sources and reference as appropriate (ACHCS096).

## LESSON SUMMARY

Students will examine what options there are to volunteer as a student in an international context and plan how they might go about applying for such an opportunity.

## LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

- + Students read the article in Worksheet 1 and teacher leads discussions about what the students have learnt about volunteering from the article.
- + Teacher tells the students they will be concentrating on international volunteering but that it may take any form, for example humanitarian, conservation or education.
- + Class watches YouTube video *What is International Student Volunteers?*: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQKK3XsVn5A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQKK3XsVn5A)
- + Teacher leads discussion about the opportunities that are presented in the video and invites students to list the ones they are most interested in.
- + Students are given Worksheet 2 and, in pairs or groups, research the information, discuss the questions and then respond individually to the questions provided.
- + When the assignment is complete the teacher will lead a debrief session that allows students to discuss what they have learned and what they think they might do next in regard to that learning.

## ASSESSMENT

Worksheet 2.

## RESOURCES

- + *What is International Student Volunteers?* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQKK3XsVn5A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQKK3XsVn5A)
- + Worksheet 1: What is Volunteering?
- + Worksheet 2: Where can I volunteer and how do I know it is a reputable opportunity?

# WORKSHEET 1

## What is Volunteering?

Many of us would think that we know and can define what it means to volunteer in Australia today. However, as we have started to review the definition of volunteering a number of complexities have emerged. In Australia alone academics, government, the non-profit sector and business sector use different definitions. Globally too, different definitions of volunteering are used.

### Current definition

The current VA definition of volunteering was developed in 1996 alongside a set of principles which clearly differentiate between volunteering and other unpaid activities (Cordingley, 2000, p82). The current definition does not account for areas like informal volunteering, which is known to be a significant way people give their time, or corporate volunteering. It also separates volunteering from other activities such as work experience, community service orders, student placements, unpaid work trials, emergency work during industrial disputes, work for the dole and caring for a family member.

### Global definitions and concepts

Globally there are many definitions of volunteering and the concept of volunteering varies between cultures. Informal volunteering is typically more common amongst collectivist cultures, in Asia, Southern Europe, South America and Africa (Gronlund, 2013), whereas formal volunteering is more common among Anglo cultures and Northern European countries. Given the multicultural nature of Australia today, any definition needs to have meaning to the different communities within which individuals volunteer.

### Volunteering terminology

Terminology associated with volunteering reflects different ideas of what volunteering is.

Rochester et al (2010) proposed three broad ways of thinking about volunteering globally.

These are:

- + unpaid work or service – the dominant idea in Anglo countries
- + civil action – the dominant idea in Scandinavian countries and developing countries in the global south
- + leisure volunteering as a discretionary activity chosen to be undertaken in free time.

### Trends in volunteering

Some of the trends currently having an impact on the sector include the increasing number of procedures and practices concerning volunteers and volunteering that have provided the sector with a raft of policies such as governance, risk management and workplace controls.

Areas of recent growth in volunteering also need to be considered in a contemporary definition of volunteering.

These include:

- + skilled volunteering
- + group volunteering
- + corporate volunteering
- + youth volunteering to gain hands-on work experience
- + volunteering through places of learning
- + spontaneous volunteering (for example in response to bushfires and floods)
- + virtual volunteering
- + episodic and micro-volunteering
- + international and/or cross national volunteering.

*(From Volunteering Australia (VA) Literature)*

## WORKSHEET 2

### Where can I volunteer and how do I know it is a reputable opportunity?

Select two of the sites listed below and answer the questions on this worksheet for each of them.

#### Websites

- + UNICEF Australia: [www.unicef.org.au](http://www.unicef.org.au)
- + Volunteer Eco: [www.vesabroad.com.au](http://www.vesabroad.com.au)
- + Antipodeans Abroad: [www.antipodeans.com.au](http://www.antipodeans.com.au)
- + CIS Australia: [www.cisaustralia.com.au/volunteer-abroad](http://www.cisaustralia.com.au/volunteer-abroad)
- + GVI Australia: [www.gviaustralia.com.au/volunteer-abroad/?gclid=CKPep66N5sUCFREDvAodcSAA8Q](http://www.gviaustralia.com.au/volunteer-abroad/?gclid=CKPep66N5sUCFREDvAodcSAA8Q)
- + Global work and travel: [www.globalworkandtravel.com.au/nl/aus-vol.php?id=International%20volunteer%20jobs&gclid=CJbNg\\_qO5sUCFUyHvAodC4QADA](http://www.globalworkandtravel.com.au/nl/aus-vol.php?id=International%20volunteer%20jobs&gclid=CJbNg_qO5sUCFUyHvAodC4QADA)
- + ISV: [www.isvolunteers.org](http://www.isvolunteers.org)
- + Projects Abroad: [www.projects-abroad.com.au](http://www.projects-abroad.com.au)

#### Questions

- + How can you determine whether this is a reliable opportunity? Are there testimonials on the site? How do you know they are genuine?
- + What does it cost to participate? What do those costs cover? What do you have to provide for yourself? What might be the total of those additional costs?
- + Who manages the administration aspects of the volunteering opportunity? Is there any indication of the percentage of payment that goes to the administering organisation?
- + What will you do as a volunteer in this location?
- + How long does the experience last?
- + What lasting contribution does the activity provide to the local community?
- + Which of the two opportunities listed would you apply for and why?
- + Download the application form for this opportunity, complete it and attach it to your answers for assessment.