

> FOREWORD

As our country's peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Australia's mission is to lead, strengthen, promote and celebrate volunteering. We encourage and support positive civic participation through volunteer service by people of all ages and from all walks of life.

A key enabler in achieving our mission is the development of innovative, practical and accessible resources. We are extremely pleased therefore to welcome the publication of a new nationally significant resource, *Volunteering and the Australian Curriculum – Fostering a Culture of Giving: Practical Lessons for Teachers from Foundation to Year 10*.

This resource was developed as one of a number of National Innovation and Collaboration Projects funded by the Federal Department of Social Services under its Families and Communities Program.

Australia's strong tradition of volunteering must continue to be promoted and strengthened in an ever-changing world. Opening up opportunities in the mainstream school setting for all young Australians to learn about volunteering and to embrace a culture of giving has the potential to set patterns for lifetime fulfilment, community connection and better health.

There is strong research evidence that students' active civic involvement supports their educational participation and achievement. Through this Curriculum project we now have a tailored resource promoting young people's positive civic involvement, aligned with formal curricula and pedagogy in Australian schools.

This National Innovation and Collaboration Project was led by Volunteering ACT with the support of Volunteering Australia and the network of State and Territory peak volunteering bodies. I commend the Volunteering ACT team for their passion and diligence in leading this project and applaud the unfailingly generous input from teachers, educators and volunteering organisations across the nation.

I know these excellent resources will save our busy teachers valuable time in the preparation of professional learning and teaching tools. I anticipate hearing many encouraging stories from them and their students of their learning and volunteering achievements based on use of these resources.

Brett Williamson OAM
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteering Australia

> PREFACE

This set of teaching and learning resources have been developed by teachers for teachers – with the support of Volunteering Australia and volunteering organisations from across the country.

They are a follow up product to Volunteering ACT's targeted youth research report *Promoting Youth Engagement and Wellbeing Through Student Volunteer Programs in ACT Schools*. This research showed that schools would welcome guidance in fostering a culture of giving and in increasing the number and diversity of volunteering opportunities for their students.

These resources are practical teaching aids for use as part of mainstream teaching programs. They are:

- + based on the ground-up knowledge and experience of teachers and volunteering sector experts
- + a demonstration of how volunteering concepts, data and practices fit into the Australian Curriculum
- + applicable across Australia and accessible to all teachers via electronic download.

By aligning volunteering with the Australian Curriculum, all students have the opportunity to be involved and reap the educational and personal benefits that come from volunteering. These benefits are identified – by students themselves – as including learning work and life skills, developing empathy for others, enhanced feelings of personal worth and making schooling more meaningful.

I gratefully acknowledge and thank the many people from across Australia who made this project possible.

I thank Carol Harris BA, MLitt, MEd (Admin) for her inspiring leadership and for generously applying her significant teaching and administrative experience and skills to the Project Officer task.

I express our sincere gratitude to the following teachers and educators from around the country who joined together in groups to workshop, write and test the lessons across different areas of the Australian Curriculum:

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I thank my colleagues from volunteering peak bodies and volunteering organisations across Australia who promoted, facilitated and attended the lesson-writing workshops.

It is our hope that through the use of these resources by teachers, many young people, who otherwise would not have the opportunity, will experience what research shows is the meaningful happiness that comes from doing things for others. In this way not only will they benefit themselves, but contribute through a culture of giving to a more generous and cohesive Australian society.

Above all, through these resources we aim to promote greater engagement of young people in volunteering to set a pattern of contribution and connection through volunteering for life.

Maureen Cane
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteering ACT