

**20** NATIONAL  
**23** VOLUNTEERING  
CONFERENCE  
THE FUTURE IS NOW

## **D3: Student volunteering**

A group of diverse students, including men and women of various ethnicities, are walking outdoors in front of a modern building with a grid-like facade. The students are dressed in casual attire, and some are wearing white t-shirts. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day.

# Student Volunteering: Pivoting to unlock impact

National Volunteering Conference  
13th & 14th February 2023

Alex Connor

# UTS SOUL Award

- Extra-curricular community leadership and social justice action program for UTS students.
- Through training and volunteering opportunities, SOUL enables students to venture beyond their degree and into the community to skill up, give back and make change.



211

Community  
organisations  
supported in 2022

UTS  
**SOUL**  
AWARD

13,051

Hours volunteered  
in 2022

# Reciprocal Partnership



Deep Listening



Impacts > Outputs



Multiple ways to engage

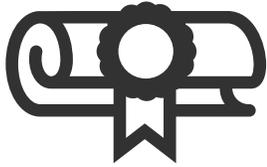


Build trust

STUDENTS

The word "STUDENTS" is displayed in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font against a solid red background. Each letter of the word is filled with a different photograph of diverse students in a campus setting. The 'S' shows a student in a blue shirt. The 'T' shows a student in a dark jacket. The 'U' features a bearded man in a blue t-shirt. The 'D' shows a group of students, including a man with glasses and a woman with glasses. The 'E' shows a woman with glasses and a man. The 'N' shows a student in a white shirt. The 'T' shows a student in a white shirt. The final 'S' shows a student in a white shirt. The overall composition is clean and modern, emphasizing student diversity.

# Changing Contexts



University



Student



Volunteer Involving  
Organization

# Changing Contexts



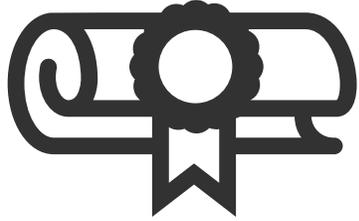
## Student

- Time
- Return on Investment
- Drive to make Change
- Who is a student

1.6 million students in Australia

of which 500,000 are international students

# Changing Contexts



University

- Work Integrated Learning
- Opportunity to channel resources and convene
- Lifetime of Learning and micro-credentialing
- Silo'd engagement approaches



Domestic  
High School  
Leaver

International  
Masters

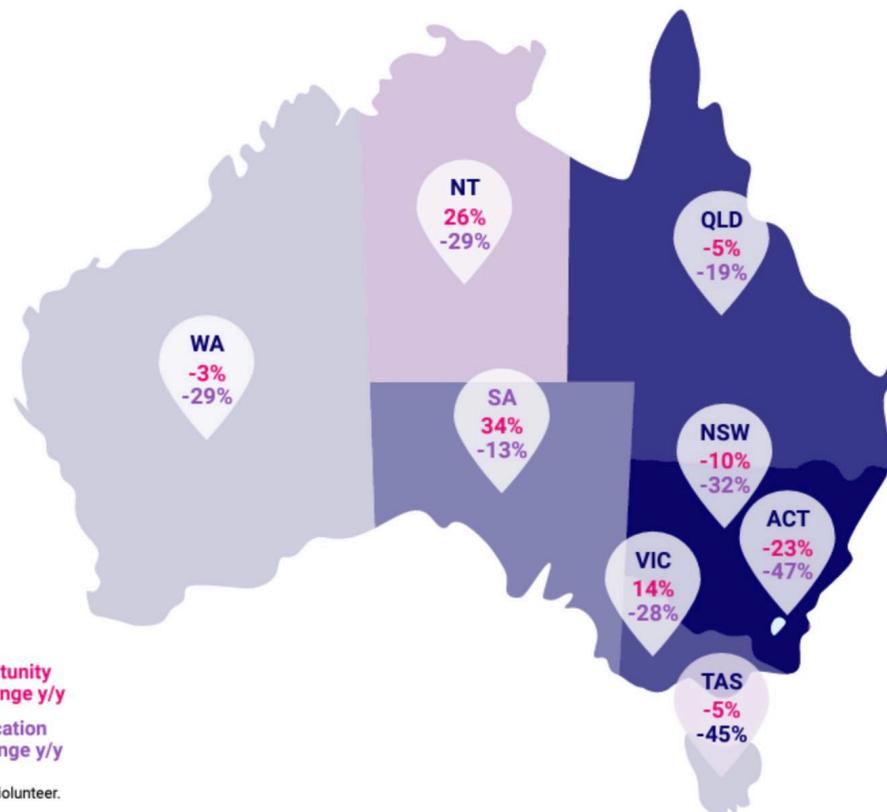
Final Year  
Transition

Professional  
Career  
Development

# Seek Volunteer Report - 2022



Volunteer Involving  
Organization



Opportunity  
% Change y/y

Application  
% change y/y

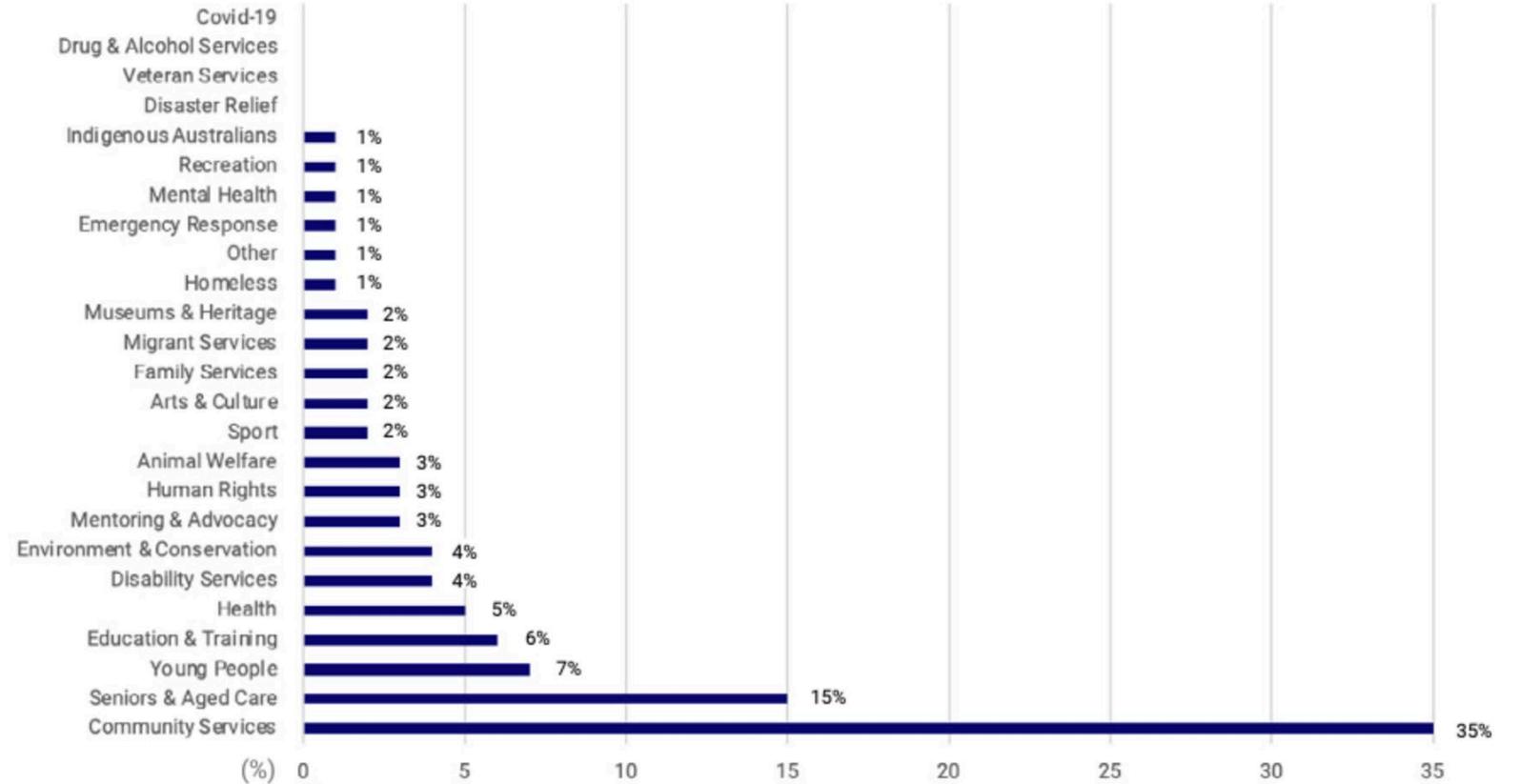
Source: SEEK Volunteer.

24,000+ opportunities to volunteer in the year to July 2022, which was a 3% increase from 2021, but 15% fewer compared to 2019

- Applications to volunteer were down 25% y/y, the lowest they have been in four years
- 16% of opportunities were able to be done digitally/ remotely, up from 4% in 2019

The most popular SDGs students wanted to volunteer with  
Education  
Sustainability & Environment  
Gender Equality

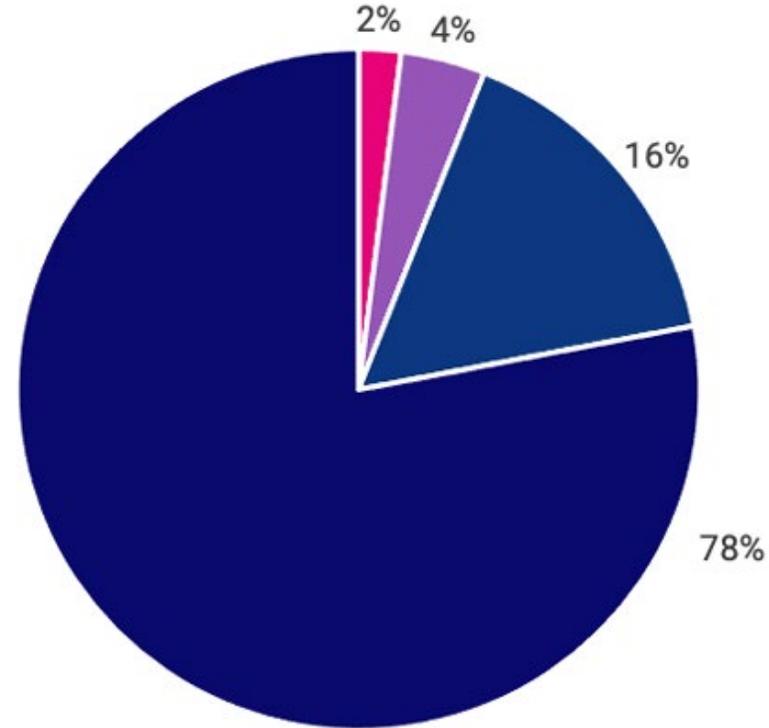
FIGURE 3. OPPORTUNITIES BY CAUSE



Source: SEEK Volunteer.

36% of UTS SOUL students weren't looking for volunteering with a commitment over 6 months

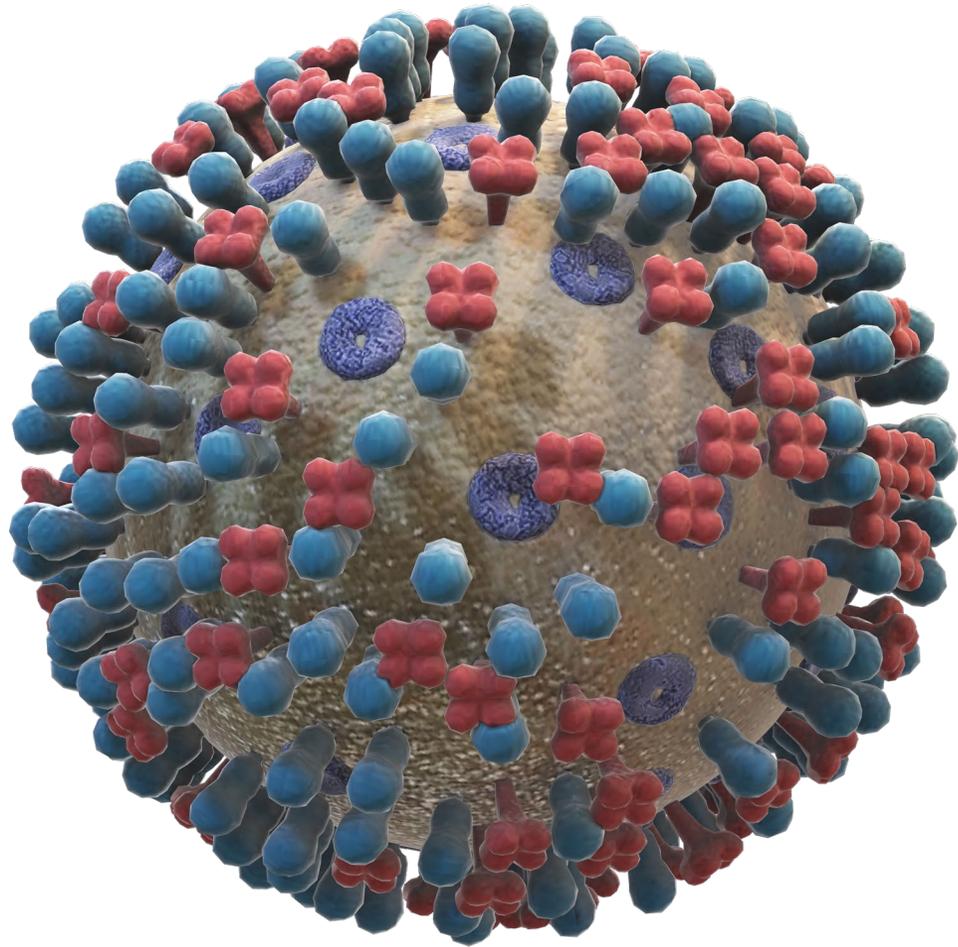
FIGURE 4. OPPORTUNITIES BY TIME COMMITMENT



Source: SEEK Volunteer.

■ One off ■ Event ■ Less than 6 months ■ More than 6 months

# Disruptions to the norm



Student  
Confidence

Availability  
and kinds of  
volunteering

Burnout

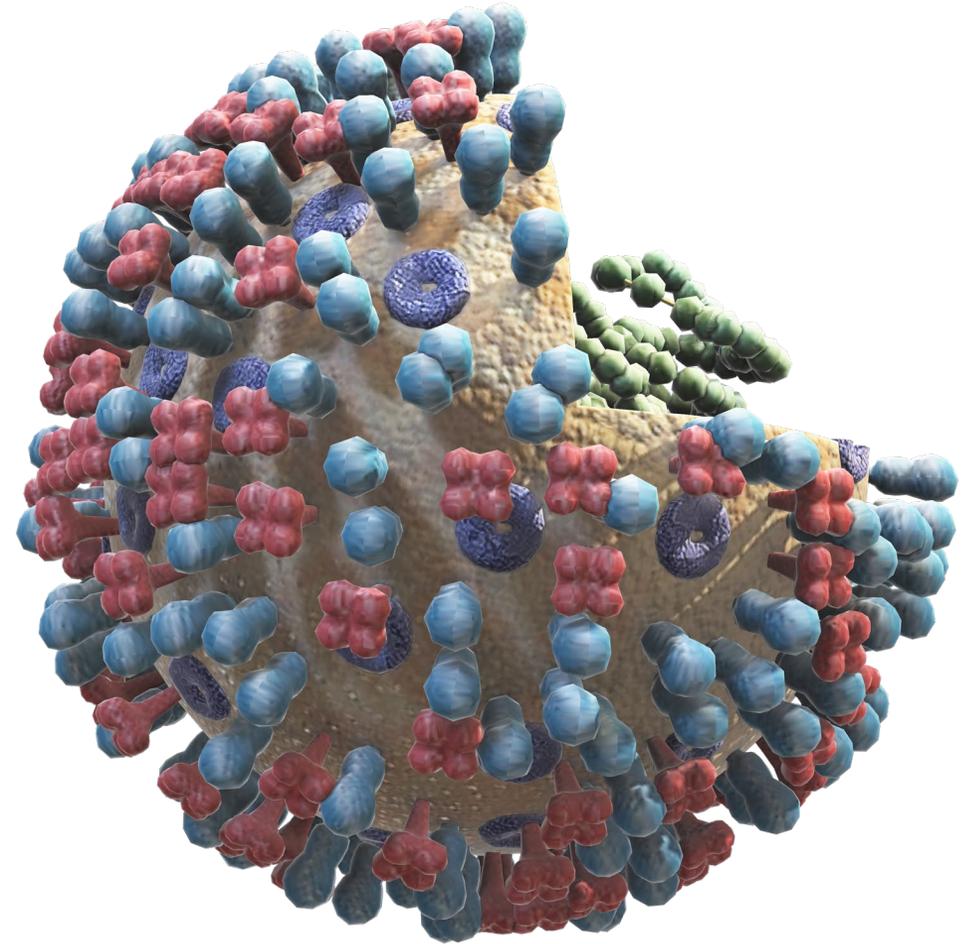
# Opportunities

Online  
volunteering

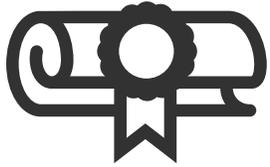
Community  
sentiment

Increased  
understanding of  
the need for and  
value of the sector

License to  
innovate



# Engagement Strategy



University

Broad &  
Supported

Structured  
ongoing

High investment  
& return

# Relationships and structures



# Capacity & Confidence Building



# Big Idea Hackathon



- Face to face
- Two days
- Paid organisational engagement
- Building civic responsibility & conversion to volunteering



# SOUL Opportunity Accelerator



- Online
- Two weeks (25 hours per student)
- 6 hours per organization
- 125 hour research report on identified challenge

# Relationships and structures

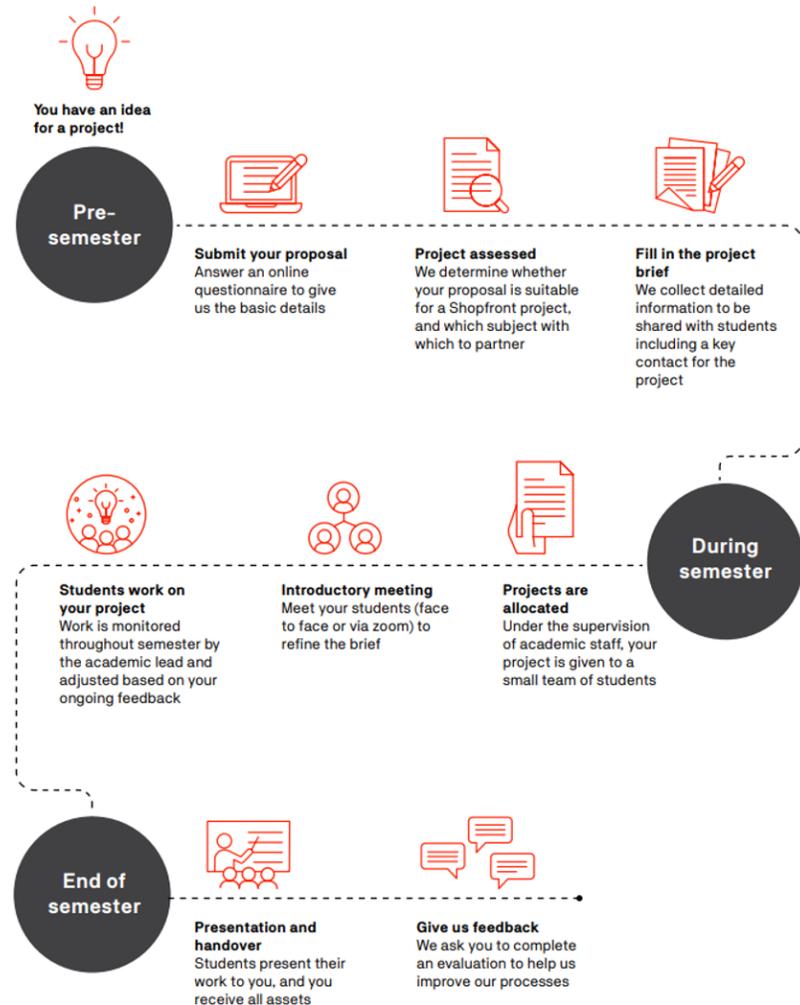
*"It was incredibly fulfilling to both improve my own skills and learn about the not-for-profit sector, whilst doing work I felt was **meaningful**. I feel like I have a **genuine experience that will help me in future**."*

Stuart Howarth, Bachelor of Engineering & Bachelor of Science

*"The research was detailed, cohesive and clear. The report will act as a **valuable resource** for our team and has provided **practical insights**. I would recommend others to work with SOUL because of the high calibre of students and work produced."*

Bindi Lea, Settlement Services International – Ignite Program

# Work Integrated Learning – UTS Shopfront



*'The students had so much creative energy and were so genuine in wanting to help us get our message to the public. It was really refreshing to have that experience.'*

*Leanne said she would recommend participating in the program to other organisations.*

*'It's all extremely positive. I really encourage all people in my networks to make use of this program. I've been encouraging other organisations to use this because it's been so fantastic for us.'*

Leanne Ho, Executive Officer, Economic Justice Australia

# Student Volunteer Engagement Strategy



Volunteer Involving  
Organisations

Broad &  
Supported

Structured  
ongoing

High investment  
& return

- Understand your purpose and goal as an organisation
- Know what you need and why, focus on impact, be selfish
- Consider your structures, online? Shorter commitment?
- Can you include other resources, university, corporate, mentoring
- Remove barriers, support travel, meals
- Sell the benefits, work, networks

# Thank you



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