

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Employment Services reforms overlooks the role of the Volunteering sector

Volunteering Australia welcomes the Government's announcement on reforms to employment services, however we note that the proposal overlooks the role and contributions of the volunteering sector.

Volunteering Australia CEO Adrienne Picone said, "Volunteering can be an effective way of assisting people to gain entry or re-enter the workforce, or meet their mutual obligation requirements. Volunteering fosters key work-related skills, boosts the confidence of jobseekers and is an important pathway to employment."

The proposed reforms highlight a shift toward more flexibility on jobseeker activity requirements and a focus on digital employment services. However, we highlight issues with jobseekers who may not be digital ready, and remain concerned that the Targeted Compliance Framework and demerit system will stay in place.

"It is disappointing that these reforms have not earmarked new funding for Volunteering Support Services, who are already very involved with assisting jobseekers to satisfy their activity requirements. Volunteering Australia has previously provided feedback to the reforms on Employment Services and through consultations on the role of these organisations in employment services", said Ms Picone.

"Volunteering Support Services frequently use their local knowledge to assist mutual obligation participants to find a volunteer role with pre-approved Volunteer Involving Organisations. These organisations receive no funding to match jobseekers with an appropriate activity."

Volunteering Australia looks forward to continuing to work with the Government on these reforms to ensure that jobseekers and Volunteering Support Services are appropriately recognised, resourced and supported.

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