Dear <Name>

Volunteering Australia recently launched their 2019 Federal Election Campaign – Leading a Culture of Giving in Australia. As a representative of a Volunteering Support Service, I am sending you an email reminding you to value, invest and amplify volunteering this federal election.

Volunteering in Australia contributes an estimated 743 million hours of time to our community and $290 billion in economic value. This revenue exceeds the contributions of the mining, agriculture and retail sectors.

Volunteering Support Services enable safe, effective and sustainable volunteering to local communities. In 2017 alone, Volunteering Support Services contributed nearly 12.3 million volunteer hours to the Australian community. <You may want to insert an example of how your organisation contributes to volunteering in Australia>

I’m joining Volunteering Australia this federal election campaign to ask candidates to lead a culture of giving. To do this, we are seeking a commitment from all parties on the following policy proposals:

1. Value Volunteering
   * A Strong Volunteering Infrastructure
   * That volunteering is appropriately recognised in grants and funding
   * That the rights of volunteers are protected
   * Acknowledge volunteering as a pathway to employment
2. Invest in Volunteering
   * Restore funding to Volunteer Grants to 2010 levels
   * Provide funding to National Volunteer Week
   * Commit to ongoing (indexed) funding to the Volunteer Management Activity
   * Invest in Youth Volunteering
   * Fund initiatives that support volunteers in disaster management and climate change
3. Amplify Volunteering
   * Bolster volunteer numbers in high-demand community services
   * Support a blueprint for the sector
   * Fix Charitable Fundraising laws
   * Effectively harness the powers of the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership, including support for disaggregated data collection

To lead a culture of giving is to recognise that volunteers are a significant part of the Australian workforce, supporting the work of the federal government through the delivery of core programs, and making a vital contribution to the Australian economy and society. It is to also acknowledge that the delivery of successful service delivery and programming requires targeted funding for volunteers and volunteer management.

We are calling for your support in the following areas:

* **Acknowledgement that volunteering extends across all Government portfolios**, and as such, volunteering should be repositioned within Government;
* **A commitment to increased federal funding to volunteering** that is managed sustainably, consistently and transparently; and
* **An increase in support for volunteering in high-demand community services**, such as aged care, disability, mental health, emergency services, and youth.

Please find attached a copy of Volunteering Australia’s Federal Election platform. You can find more information about the Campaign on Volunteering Australia’s website: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/cultureofgiving.

<Name>