

MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteering Australia welcomes ALP charity policy announcement

Volunteering Australia welcomes today's charity policy announcement by Labor's Shadow Minister for Charities and Not-for-profits the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP. The suite of policies includes:

- Australia's first ever Charities Minister;
- Establishment of a Not-for-profit Sector Expert Reference Panel and a 'Building Community - Building Capacity' Working Group to strategically enhance community building and collective purpose;
- Fixing Fundraising by harmonising Australia's fundraising laws with States, Territories, Treasury and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC);
- Freedom to Advocate - Labor will introduce a range of new measures including amendments to Charities Act 2013 to ensure advocacy is seen as a legitimate and appropriate charitable activity;
- Reinstating the Annual Charities Report and increase the power of the ACNC Advisory Board;
- Charity Passport - Labor's Charities Minister will work with Commonwealth departments and agencies to ensure the charity passport meets the needs of the sector.

Volunteering Australia CEO Adrienne Picone said, "Volunteering Australia is pleased that the ALP is committed to strengthening the charity sector, with three-quarters of the charitable sector workforce comprised of voluntary labour."

Volunteering Australia's election platform outlines priority areas to build sector capacity and lead a culture of giving in Australia. Central to this is support for a blueprint for the sector, ensuring a nationally consistent fundraising regime and the freedom for charities to conduct issues-based advocacy.

"Today's announcement will allow for better support for the 3 million Australians who volunteer formally in the charitable sector and the millions more who are volunteering to support not-for-profit causes. It will also ensure strategic and sustainable sector development and will further amplify the efforts already being achieved by our diverse sector", said Ms Picone.

You can read [Volunteering Australia's Federal Election Policy Platform](#) here.

View the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP's charity policy announcement here:
http://www.andrewleigh.com/labor_to_lead_the_way_on_charities_media_release

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