

MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteering Australia invites new government to reimagine volunteering

Volunteering Australia is looking forward to working with the new Labor government to recognise the vital role of volunteers and reimagine volunteering for all Australians.

This Federal Election, Volunteering Australia called on all political parties and candidates to commit to a positive agenda on volunteering, including the implementation of a sector-led and whole of government National Strategy for Volunteering.

Volunteering Australia CEO Mark Pearce said, “A whole of government and whole of community National Strategy for Volunteering provides an opportunity to embed volunteering in the fabric of the national policy agenda, enabling the Federal Government to deliver on its broader priorities, including aged care, disability care and strengthening Australia's charities and non-profits.

“Volunteering does not ‘just happen’. It is one of the most agile and innovative forms of work and participation in modern day Australia, and it requires strategic consideration and investment to ensure its sustainability,” said Mr Pearce.

As the national peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Australia has received project funding to lead the development of the first National Strategy for Volunteering in ten years. The aim of the project is to deliver a National Strategy owned by the volunteering ecosystem that will provide a blueprint for a reimaged future for volunteering in Australia.

“We have taken the National Strategy for Volunteering project forward with an inclusive and non-partisan approach,” said Mr Pearce. “We invite the incoming Labor government to embrace the development and implementation of a sector-led National Strategy for Volunteering, commit to its role as a major stakeholder, and acknowledge that the work of volunteering crosses all Government portfolios.”

Volunteers are the often-invisible workforce that supports the nation every day and through challenging times. But volunteering is struggling; because of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and longer-term trends which are seeing formal volunteering rates in decline.

“We need to reinvigorate volunteering for the nation’s ongoing social and economic recovery and consider what we may need to do differently to ensure volunteering strategy and investment keeps pace with changing circumstances and remains sustainable for years to come. Governments have a distinct and vital role to play in this, through providing strategic leadership and investing in initiatives and infrastructure that will enable volunteering to thrive,” said Mr Pearce.

Volunteering Australia invites the Albanese government to work with the volunteering ecosystem to ensure volunteering across Australia is effective, inclusive and sustainable for future generations.

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