

MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 25 October 2022

Volunteering Australia welcomes Treasurer's commitment to measuring what matters

Volunteering Australia welcomes the Australian Treasurer's commitment to putting wellbeing and 'measuring what matters' at the heart of future Budgets and his announcement of a Measuring What Matters Statement to be made in 2023, following consultation with experts and stakeholders.

Chief Executive Officer of Volunteering Australia, Mark Pearce said, "We support the aspiration for a Budget process that better reflects what people value. Australians value volunteering and the wellbeing benefits it brings to individuals, communities, and the nation. In future Federal Budgets, and in the 2023 Measuring What Matters Statement, it is essential that volunteering is included in the frameworks and metrics that are used to track wellbeing and to guide the allocation of spending."

Volunteering Australia is currently leading the development of the first National Strategy for Volunteering in ten years, which is being launched in February 2023. The National Strategy will be designed and owned by the volunteering ecosystem and provide a blueprint for a reimagined future for volunteering in Australia. Volunteering Australia looks forward to working with the Federal Government to deliver the new National Strategy for Volunteering as we work together to enable volunteering to thrive and recognise the critical relationship between volunteering and wellbeing.

"New [research](#) undertaken to inform the development of the National Strategy shows that volunteering has not recovered from the devastating impact of COVID-19, which comes on top of a long-term decline in formal volunteering rates in Australia. The Federal Government has a major role to play in the delivery of the National Strategy and we look forward to working with them in the coming years to ensure a better future for volunteering in Australia," Mr Pearce said.

Volunteers play an essential role in supporting the priorities of the Federal Government. Volunteering Australia welcomes significant new funding to major volunteer involving organisations and the continuation of funding into the forward estimates for the Volunteer Management Activity and Volunteer Grants.

The Treasurer highlighted in his speech that volunteers are central to crisis resilience, announcing additional funding of \$38.3 million to Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) for the National Veteran Volunteer Service. This is a veteran-led and delivered service responding to natural disasters and the extra funding aims to add more than 5000 volunteer veterans to its ranks. "The additional funding to Disaster Relief Australia will lead to a total of around 6,700 veterans to provide over 13,600 volunteer days per annum. Through volunteering, this initiative will help provide wellbeing and sense of purpose for ADF veterans," Mr Pearce said.

Additional funding of \$90 million for a renewed Landcare Rangers program aims to deliver up to a 1000 full time Landcare Rangers across the country. This is designed to increase the capacity of local Landcare and Natural Resource Management groups with Landcare Rangers, who will work with local volunteers on conservation and restoration projects.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Kylie Hughes, Volunteering Australia

E: media@volunteeringaustralia.org

M: 0460 852 336

MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 25 October 2022

“This investment will support the reinvigoration of volunteering across the Landcare network and is well deserved recognition of the role of volunteers as the backbone of environmental protection in Australia. According to the Annual Information Statement (AIS) data published by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, there are over 900,000 volunteers in charities which identified ‘environmental activities’ as their main activity,” Mr Pearce said.

Volunteering Australia welcomes the Federal Government’s commitment of initial financial assistance to community services experiencing extreme cost pressures. The Government will provide \$560 million over four years to essential community services to ensure they can continue helping people and communities in need.

[Volunteering Australia’s – Highlights of the 2022-23 October Federal Budget Measures](#)

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Kylie Hughes, Volunteering Australia

E: media@volunteeringaustralia.org

M: 0460 852 336