



Expression of Interest National Strategy for Volunteering Research Working Group

The Opportunity

As a member of the National Strategy for Volunteering Research Working Group, you will have the opportunity to translate your research knowledge and expertise directly into policy impact. The National Strategy for Volunteering project is an historic opportunity to identify the challenges facing volunteering in Australia and collaboratively design evidence-based, purpose-built solutions to enable volunteering to thrive. Members of the working group will be directly involved in the development of the first National Strategy for Volunteering in a decade and will have a unique opportunity to influence its direction.

Project Overview

The Australian Government Department of Social Services has funded Volunteering Australia to lead the development of a National Strategy for Volunteering. The aim of the project is to deliver a National Strategy for Volunteering designed and owned by the volunteering ecosystem that will provide a blueprint for a reimagined future for volunteering in Australia.

The project will deliver two main outputs:

1. A *Volunteering in Australia* research report, which will provide a comprehensive understanding of the landscape of volunteering, map trends, and provide insight into how volunteering may evolve into the future.
2. A National Strategy for Volunteering co-designed with stakeholders in the volunteering ecosystem.

Initial project planning commenced in July 2021 and all outputs of the project must be delivered by December 2022.



Volunteering in Australia Research

The *Volunteering in Australia* research is a similar exercise to existing State of Volunteering research. The last national State of Volunteering report was produced in 2016 by Volunteering Australia in collaboration with PwC. The 2016 report was based on surveys of volunteers, volunteer involving organisations, and companies with employee volunteering programs. Since that time, various states have produced State of Volunteering reports. The *Volunteering in Australia* research report will be a collaborative effort between Volunteering Australia and a research partner. It is envisaged the research will be a combination of analysis of existing data and new data collection and will provide a framework for an annual research report. The research report is scheduled to be delivered by July 2022.

Volunteering Australia also wants to ensure the National Strategy is informed by the broader research evidence base on volunteering, beyond what will fall within the scope of the *Volunteering in Australia* research report.

Research Working Group

Volunteering Australia recognises there is considerable research expertise in Australia on volunteering and related topics. A Research Working Group is being established to support the National Strategy for Volunteering project. The working group will have two key objectives:

1. Ensure the National Volunteering Strategy is well informed by research.
2. Act as an advisory body for the *Volunteering in Australia* research.

Volunteering Australia is delighted to confirm the Chair of the Research Working Group is Professor Melanie Oppenheimer, Australian National University. Professor Oppenheimer is also a member of the National Strategy for Volunteering Council, which is providing strategic oversight for the development of the National Strategy. Professor Oppenheimer will provide a link between these two groups.

The working group will meet monthly, or more often as required, to advance the National Strategy for Volunteering project. The initial meeting, to be held the week beginning 13 December, will be two hours and monthly meetings thereafter will be one-hour in duration. It is anticipated members will be required to invest a further 4-6 hours per month on working group activities.

In addition to the above objectives the working group may also consider how this project could provide a platform to secure long-term funding for a sustainable volunteering research agenda in Australia.



Selection Criteria

The Research Working Group will be comprised of up to 10 Australian researchers. In selecting members consideration will be given to:

- Diversity of disciplinary perspectives
- Diversity of volunteering interests
- Diversity of geographic location
- Diversity of academic/research experience
- Ability to commit to the project for a 12-month period
- Ability to invest time and energy to ensure the working group delivers on its objectives

Expression of Interest Form

Name: [Click here to enter full name](#)

Email Address: [Click here to enter email address](#)

Contact Number: [Click here to enter contact number](#)

Jurisdiction: [Select your state/territory](#)

Institution: [Click here to enter your academic institution](#)

Discipline: [Click here to enter your academic discipline](#)

Volunteering Interest/s: [Click here to enter your volunteering interests](#)

Experience undertaking research in volunteering/research translation: [Click here to detail your experience in researching volunteering and/or translating volunteer research](#)

Please indicate your availability for the following meeting times:

- Tuesday 14 December from 11am to 1pm
- Thursday 16 December from 9am to 11am

Are you able to meet monthly or as required from Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 and dedicate additional time to make a meaningful contribution to the working group? [Choose response](#)

Please list any Conflict/s of Interest (if applicable): [Click here to detail any conflicts](#)

Have you attached a two-page resume? [Choose response](#)

Timeframe

Expressions of interest close Sunday 5 December at 11:59pm.

Applicants will be advised about the outcome of their application by close of business Friday 10 December.