

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

Wednesday 6 April, 2016



State of Volunteering in Australia

The State of Volunteering in Australia report details the trends, demographics, challenges and successes in the volunteering sector in Australia.

Key Findings:

1. Responses suggest there is a disconnect between the volunteering roles that people are interested in and the roles that organisations are offering.
2. There is misalignment between the sectors volunteers are interested in and the sectors with the most positions advertised.
3. There is support for the creation of an informal volunteering platform.
4. Volunteers are deterred from volunteering because of lack of flexibility, personal expenses incurred, lack of reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, and burdensome administrative requirements.
5. Volunteer involving organisations generally lack resources, both human and financial, and this can inhibit their ability to engage volunteers with barriers (e.g. people with a disability, people with language barriers). Lack of resources may also reduce an organisation's ability to recognise their existing volunteer base, and engage with corporates through Employee Volunteering Programs.
6. Volunteers are not getting responses from volunteer involving organisations about opportunities fast enough.
7. Online methods of recruitment and volunteering could complement the needs of future volunteers.

Key Statistics:

- 92% of volunteers feel that the organisations they volunteer for provide them with the right opportunities to match their interests and needs
- 93% of volunteers saw positive changes as a result of their volunteering
- 99% of volunteers will continue to volunteer into the future
- 67% of volunteer involving organisation say that volunteers bring new insights
- 60% of people improve of their patience skills through volunteering
- 44% of volunteers have engaged in virtual volunteering in the last 12 months, a trend we expect to increase
- In a volunteer involving organisation 57% of the workforce are volunteers
- While 86% of volunteer involving organisations say they need more volunteers, they face the following obstacles:
 - 30% say they were not able to engage the optimal amount because there were not enough suitable candidates or there was no means of locating them
 - Internal barriers such as time constraints (12%)
 - Limitations stemming from an inadequate funding base (12%)
- 51% of organisations do not have the resources to recruit or engage volunteers with barriers
- The biggest barrier to people volunteering into the future is work commitments and out-of-pocket expenses incurred through volunteering
- The most important forms of support for volunteer involving organisations into the future is information and training around volunteer management, networking with other organisations and the ability to connect with volunteer management experts
- To encourage more informal volunteering opportunities respondents suggest the development of a technological platform to help people connect

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