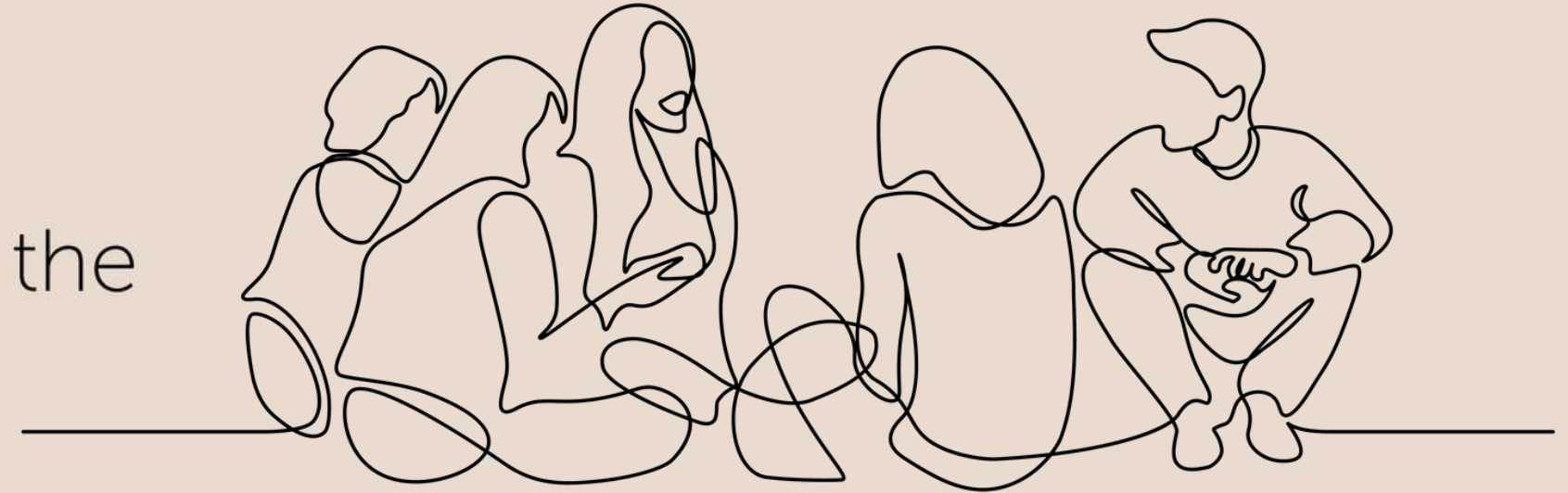


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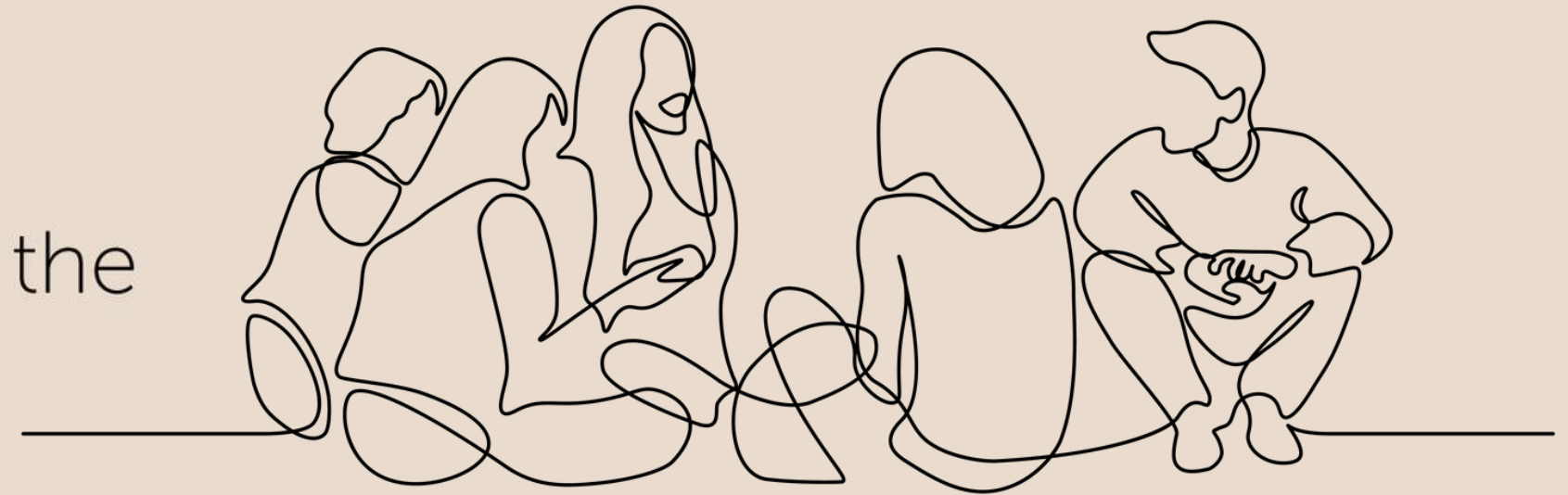
Thursday 11 May 2023
12:00pm - 1:00pm (AEST)

Supported by



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Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Sue Regan
Deputy CEO & Policy Director

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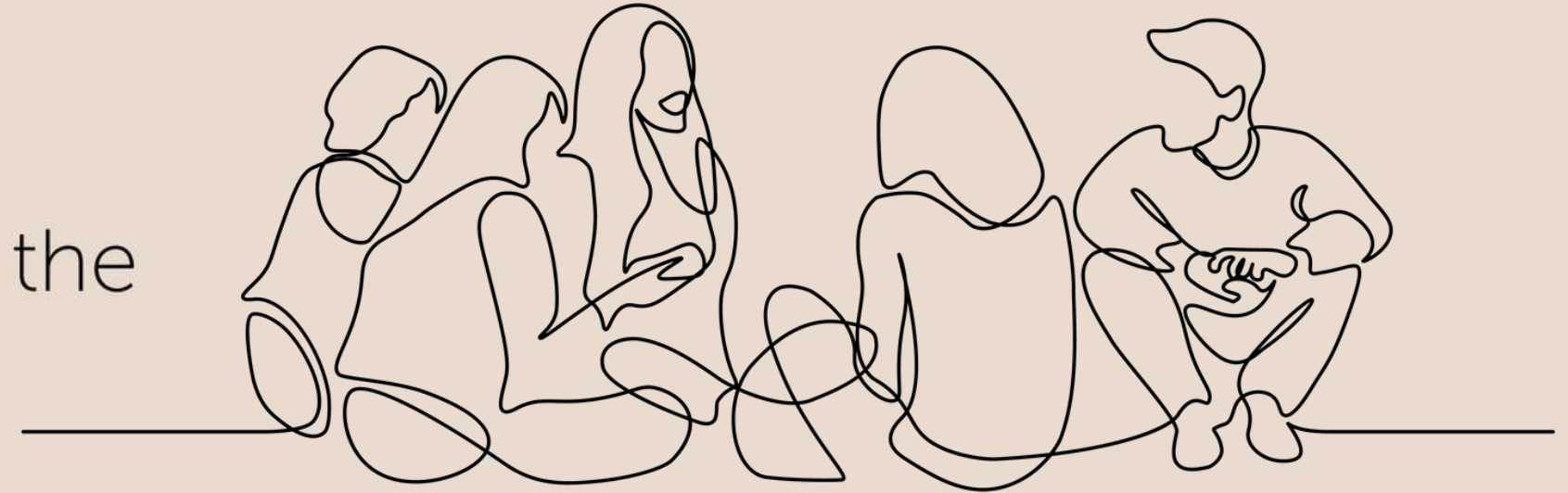
Australian Multiculturalism Through the Prism of (Informal) Volunteering



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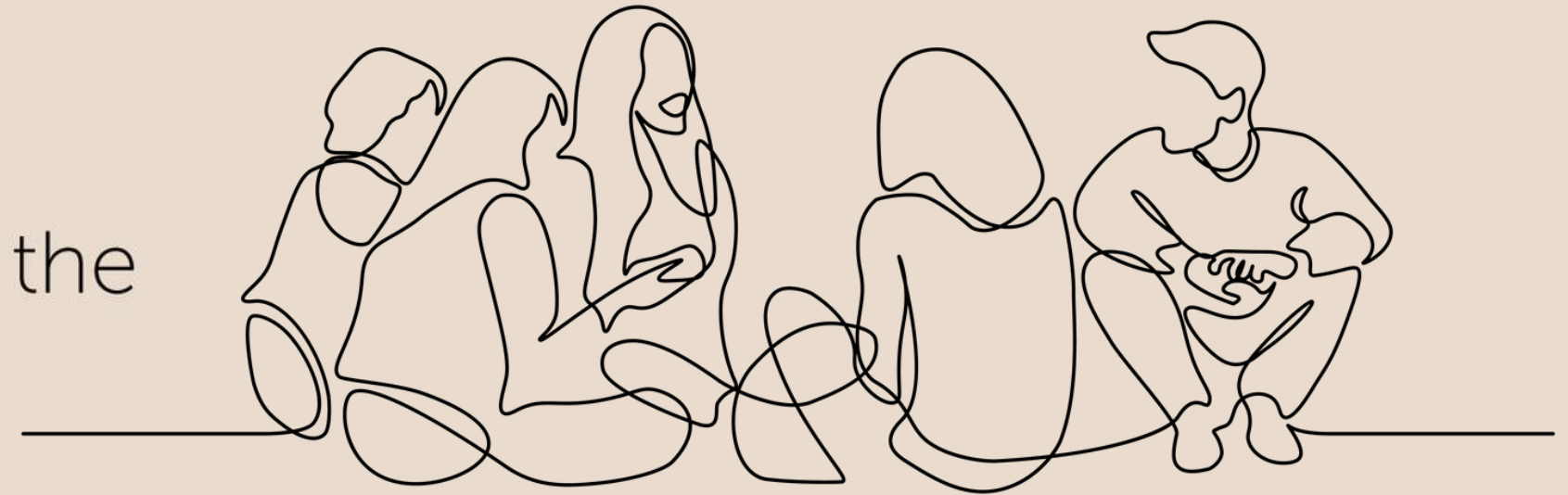
Presenting The Story Project research findings

Heba Al Adawy
Policy Officer



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Reflection on the contribution of this research to the National Strategy for Volunteering

Sarah Wilson
National Strategy Director



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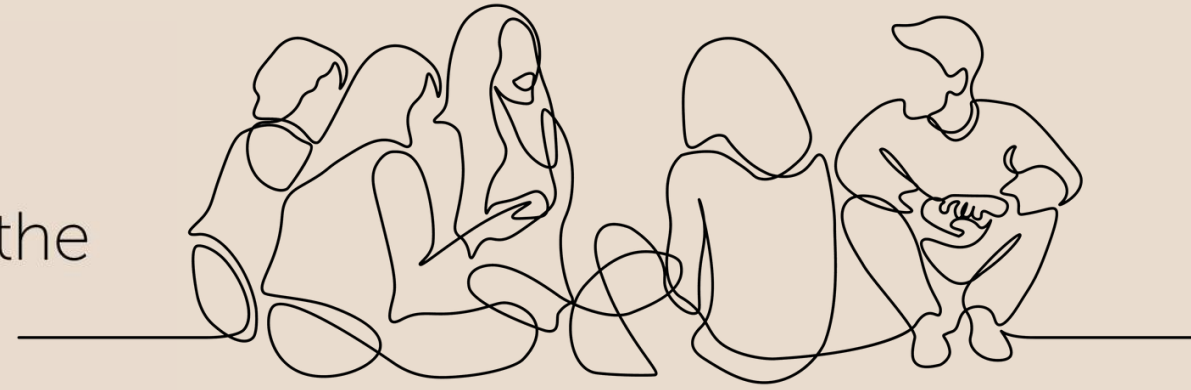
**Opportunity for Q&A
at the end**

**Please ask questions using the
Q&A function**



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The Objectives

- To showcase the diversity of volunteering by focusing on multicultural communities.
- To capture a range of unrecognised and informal community activities that entail “time freely given for the common good”.
- To capture its multiple conceptualisations, motivations, and objectives.

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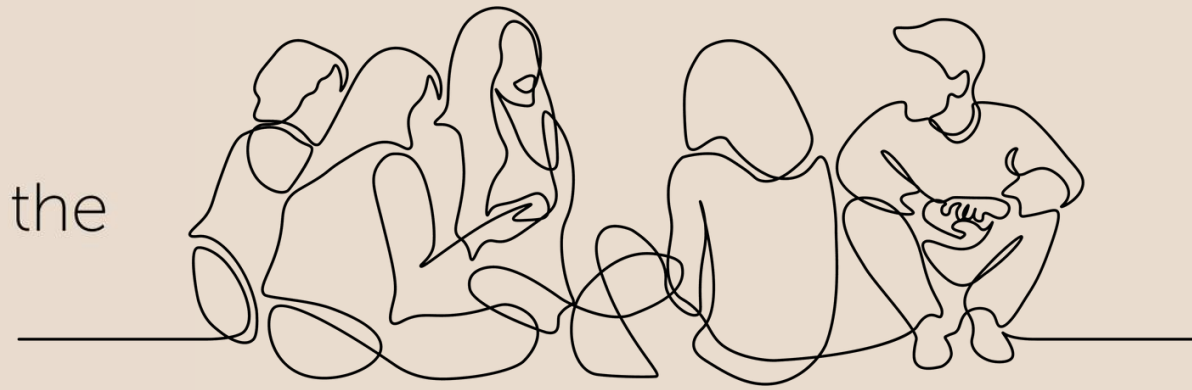


Interpretive Approach

- Faith-based settings (mosques, churches, gurdwaras, temples)
- Cultural Clubs and Associations
- Broader Identity Based Sites – Parents' Group, Women's Group, Playgroup
- Interest based sites – Community gardens

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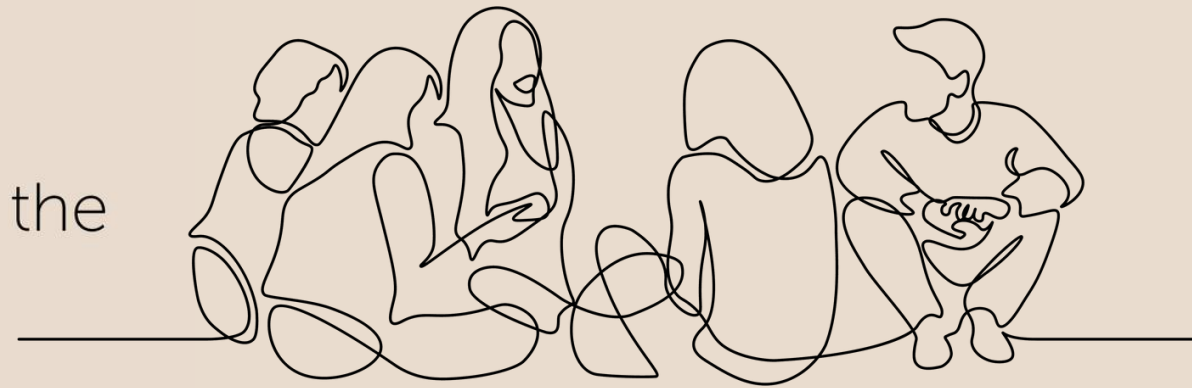
Australian Multiculturalism Through the Prism of (Informal) Volunteering



- How do we understand the nature of volunteering within multicultural contexts?
- How can we understand Australian multiculturalism through diverse experiences of volunteering?
- How can policy makers better support and recognise the domain of informal volunteering?

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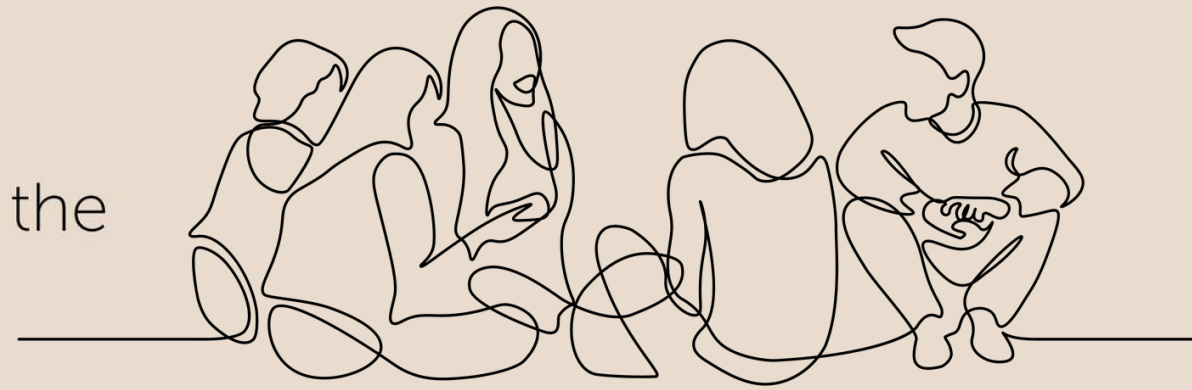
“An Act of Love”

“I would say it is an act of love. An act of shared love. We use that saying in our church as well.”

– Manjula - Founder of community produce “Pitta Garden” in Canberra and former President of Telugu Association of Canberra

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“Swamchand Seva” (Pure Service)

“My definition of volunteering is that it is something that should not have any personal benefit attached to it. The closest word to volunteering in Telugu is “swamchand seva”. Pure service or pure willingness – without anything in return.”

– Srini, volunteer teacher at Telugu language school on Sundays

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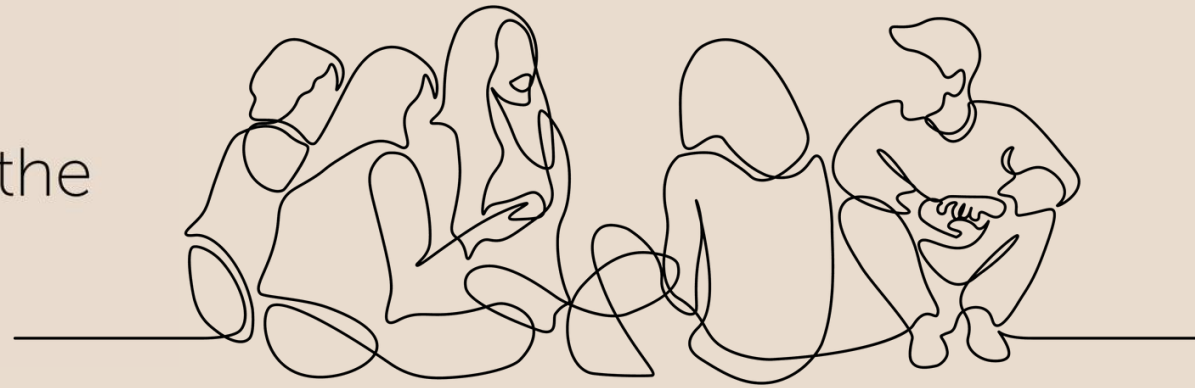
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“God's Workforce”

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“God's Workforce”

“We are called the workforce because you 'work' for God. You don't volunteer for Him.”

But yes, when we organise bigger events and ask for more help from the community, we may call them 'volunteers' as that is more ad hoc.”

A Nigerian student and recent migrant; a member of the “workforce” of Deeper Life, an all-African Pentecostal Church in Canberra

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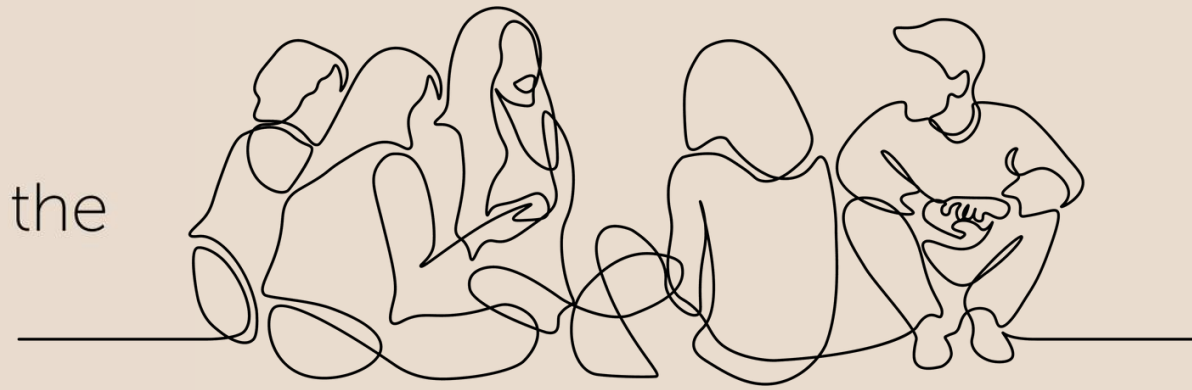
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- Informal volunteering may be under-represented in statistical data. It may be understood in culturally *specific or nuanced terms*:
 - as an act of faith or cultural obligation
 - as an extension of parenting/familial activities

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- It may be relational in nature or relational in processes:
 - it may include acts of emotional support or;
 - skilled and structured activities (teaching, auditing, administration) in sites that operate relationally more than bureaucratically

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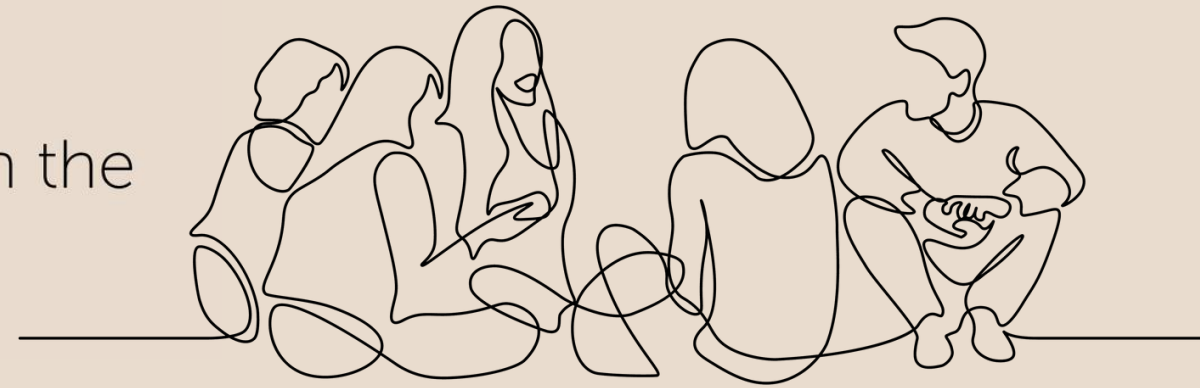
Connecting with a sense of being Australian

“I found out that gardening is a really important activity here in Australia. People just love gardening. Which is not something common in my country. Again, because in my country (Colombia), people just don't do gardening for the sake of it. You have a garden if you are a farmer, or my grandma probably would probably have one.”

– Viv, a volunteer at a church garden

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Navigating the Great Unknown

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Connecting with a sense of being Australian

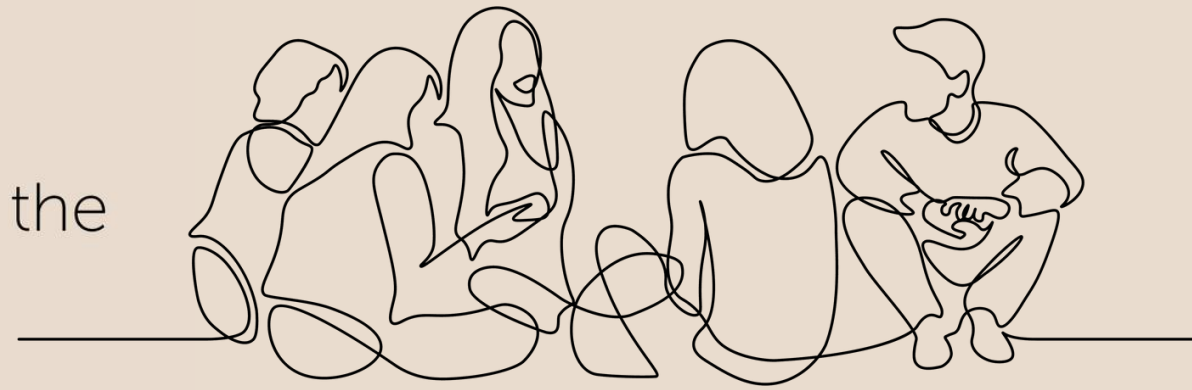
“I mean, normally, I didn’t usually mix. If we did, it was with the Egyptian families in different dinners and gatherings. But here [at the new prayer space] there were people from different backgrounds.

I met a South African ‘brother’ who used to go for bush walks in the Blue Mountains in Sydney. I had never done bushwalking before. I started going with him, for the first time, mixing with people I wouldn’t normally be with.”

– Tarek, volunteer at a make-shift mosque/prayer space (Musallah)

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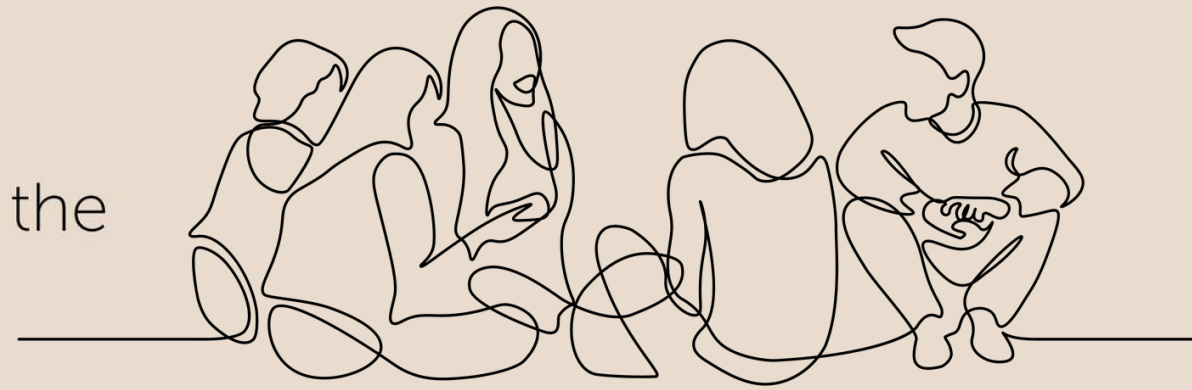
Australian Multiculturalism Through the Prism of (Informal) Volunteering



- Informal volunteering is a means through which community is constituted and a sense of belonging is forged to Australia.
- It provides social capital and aids in early settlement of emerging immigrant communities.
- It helps preserve cultural traditions and provides support structures to navigate the 'great unknown.'

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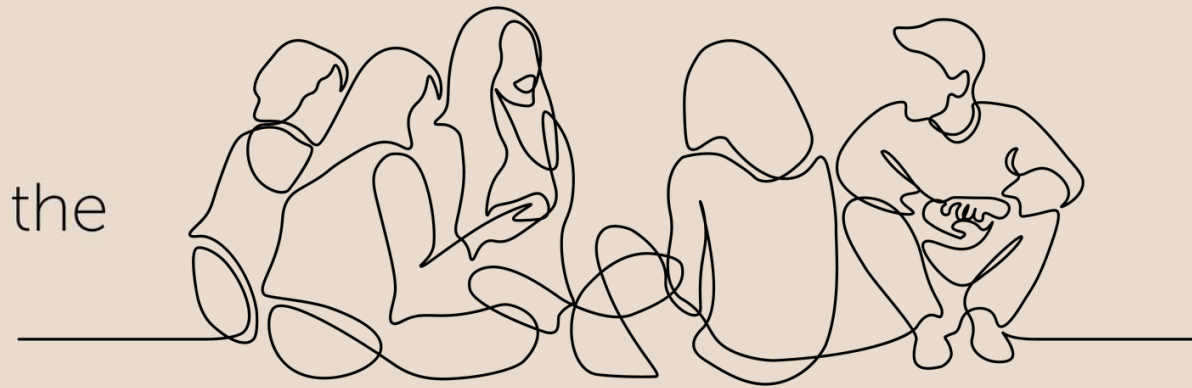
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On the Question of Recognition

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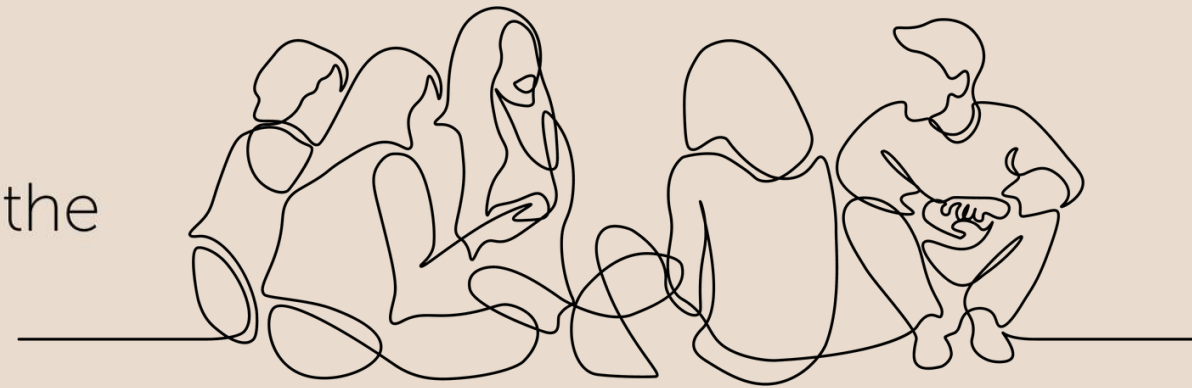
On the Question of Recognition

“I always check myself and ask: why am I doing this? If ever a day came about that I feel I am doing this because I want to get in the media or I want to get on the front page of something, then I'm there for the wrong reasons.”

– Diana, a community activist, founding member of Canberra Multicultural Forum, founder of Australian Muslim Voice Radio

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Ideational Recognition

- Affirmation of Collective Identity
- Recognition of Socio-Political Concerns

“We were tired of people speaking on behalf of us.”

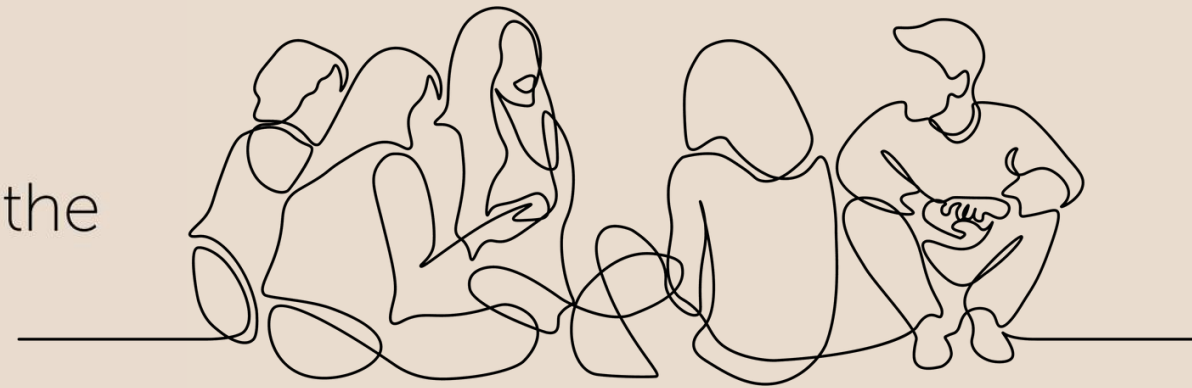
“We wanted to put our culture on display.”

“When I was in school, I had my hijab yanked off of me.”

“There were instances of discrimination.
Being called a “curry.””

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Material Recognition

- Infrastructural Support
- Relational Support

"The main challenge that all the associations face here in Canberra is lack of access to venues or the lack of venue [of proper size and function]."

"Nothing is free – only we, human beings, are free."

"There is fee everywhere" (re: school venues; Gungahlin College Theatre)

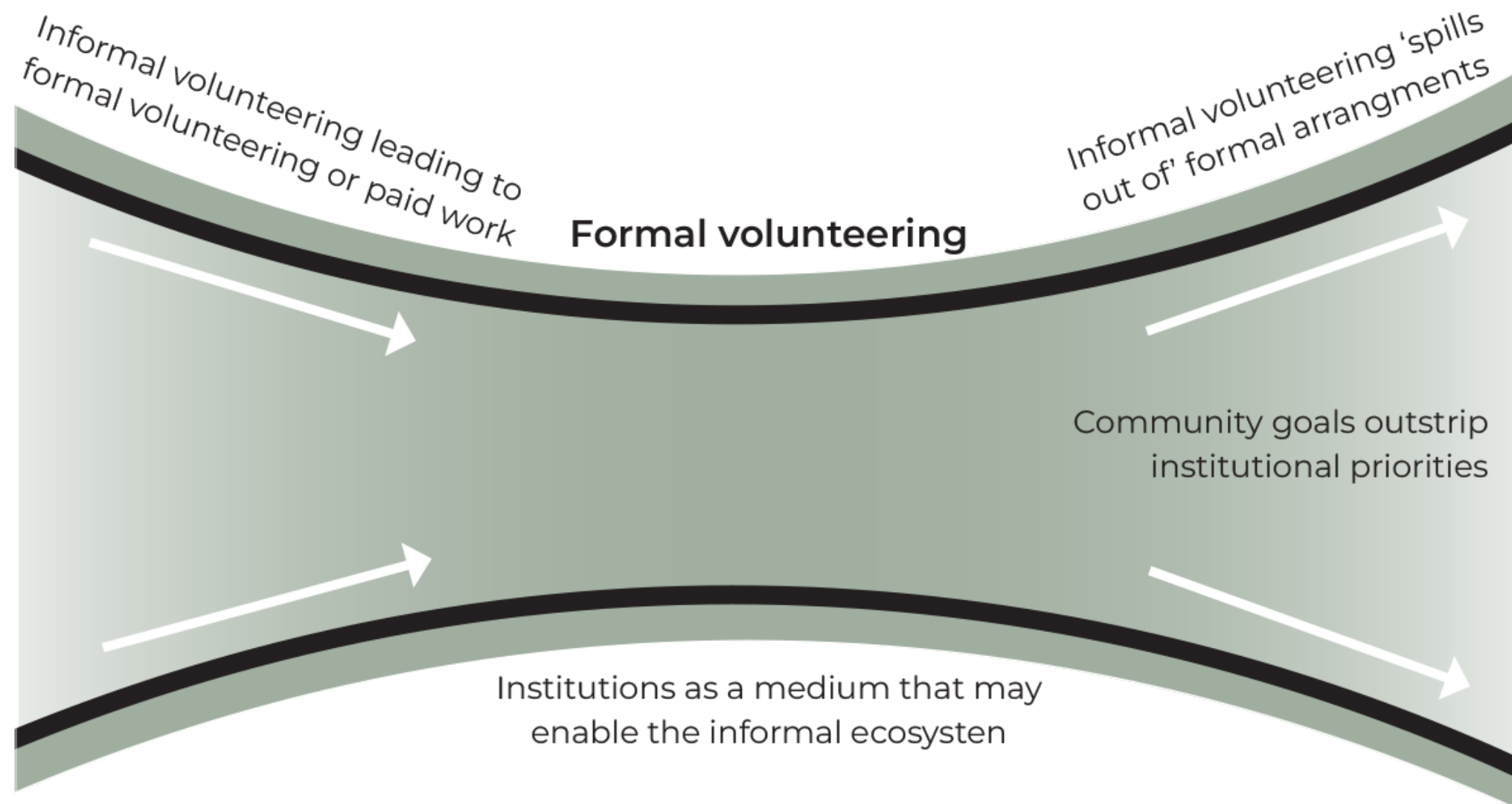
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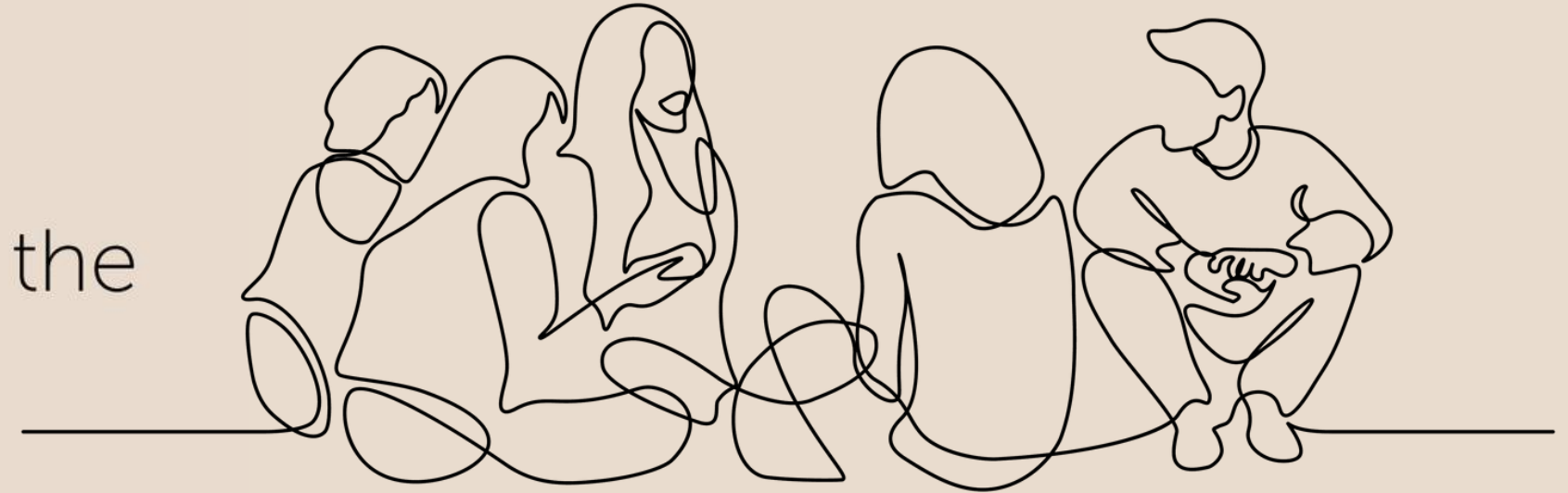
Conceptualising Support Through Intersectionalities

Volunteering Gradient



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Reflection on the contribution of this research to the National Strategy for Volunteering

Sarah Wilson
National Strategy Director



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Final Remarks

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The Story Project report
is available on our website

volunteeringaustralia.org



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The National Strategy and all of its research is available at

volunteeringstrategy.org.au 🔍



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Celebrating Volunteers as Change Makers

NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023
VOLUNTEER
THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK

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Thank you for joining us