

Key sources of information about volunteering in Australia

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Introduction

The information below provides a 'quick guide' to publicly available sources of information about volunteering in Australia. It includes a list of key documents, a brief overview of what each document contains, and links to the full text of the documents online.

Volunteering statistics

ABS Voluntary Work 2006

This ABS report has mostly been superseded by the 2010 version (below) but it contains the most recent data about the number of hours of volunteer work done in Australia and reasons for volunteering.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/C52862862C082577CA25731000198615/\\$File/44410_2006.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/C52862862C082577CA25731000198615/$File/44410_2006.pdf)

ABS Voluntary Work 2010

This ABS report is the main source of detailed statistics on voluntary work in Australia based on the 2010 General Social Survey. It includes rates of participation in voluntary work, characteristics of people who volunteer, information on the nature of the voluntary work undertaken, and reimbursement.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/404350EEC6509985CA2579580013177A/\\$File/44410_2010.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/404350EEC6509985CA2579580013177A/$File/44410_2010.pdf)

ABS Quick Stats 2011

Quick Stats provides general statistical information about specific geographical areas, based on the 2011 Census. It includes data about the number of people who did 'unpaid work' (through an organisation). You can search for data by various statistical area levels (e.g. by suburb or region). The next Census will be conducted in August 2016.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/quickstats?opendocument&navpos=220>

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ABS Volunteers in Sport 2010

This report provides detailed statistical information about volunteers in sport and recreation in Australia, based on the 2010 General Social Survey.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/8775FA7A215791B1CA2579CD000CF6A2/\\$File/4440055001_2010.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/8775FA7A215791B1CA2579CD000CF6A2/$File/4440055001_2010.pdf)

State of Volunteering Reports

State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2011

This United Nations report provides a broad overview of volunteering across the world.

http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2011/SWVR/English/SWVR2011_full.pdf

State of Volunteering in Australia 2012

This Volunteering Australia report summarises information about the state of volunteering in Australia. Chapter 2 provides a useful overview of volunteering at the national level, including information about current trends, informal volunteering, demographic changes, and the social and economic impact of volunteering.

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-Volunteering-in-Australia-2012.pdf>

National Survey of Volunteering Issues 2011

From 2006 to 2011, Volunteering Australia conducted an annual national survey to identify issues and trends relating to volunteering. The 2011 survey covers a range of topics including volunteer motivations and experiences; engaging and involving volunteers; leadership and management in volunteering; implementation of National Standards; resourcing volunteer involvement; and identifying priorities and suggesting solutions.

http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/files_mf/1377045635VANSVI2011.pdf

State of Volunteering Reports for States and Territories

Some States and Territories have produced *State of Volunteering Reports*, including:

- Tasmania (2014)
<http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au/2014/12/the-state-of-volunteering-report-2014/>
- Australia Capital Territory (2013)
<http://www.volunteeringact.org.au/volunteering/publications>
- Western Australia (2011)
http://volunteeringwa.org.au/assets/downloads/2011-state-of-volunteering-in-wa_key-findings.pdf

Volunteering policy and practice

Definition and Principles of Volunteering 1996

This Volunteering Australia fact sheet outlines the current Volunteering Australia *Definition and Principles of Volunteering*, which are broadly accepted by the volunteering sector.

http://volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Def_and Princ_English.pdf

In 2014, a national project to review the definition commenced. National consultations will be completed by the end of April 2015, with a recommendation about a revised definition expected by mid-2015. This Volunteering Australia webpage contains the *Issues Paper* and other information about the review.

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/policy-and-best-practise/definition-of-volunteering/have-your-say/>

National Standards for Involving Volunteers 2001

The current Volunteering Australia National Standards detail ‘best practice’ for the management of volunteers in not-for-profit organisations. The standards cover policies and procedures; management responsibilities; recruitment; work and the workplace; training and development; service delivery; documentation and records; and continuous improvement

<http://volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA-National-Standards-for-involving-volunteers-in-not-for-profit-organisations.pdf>

In 2014, the second phase of a national project to review the standards commenced. National consultations will be completed by the end of April 2015, with a recommendation about revised standards expected by mid-2015. This Volunteering Australia webpage contains the proposed new standards and other information about the review.

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/policy-and-best-practise/national-standards-and-supporting-material/>

National Volunteering Strategy 2011

The *National Volunteering Strategy* outlined the former Australian Government’s vision for volunteering over the next decade. There was a change of Government in September 2013.

<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/133237/20120416-1642/www.notforprofit.gov.au/volunteering/national-volunteering-strategy.html>

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Volunteering strategies for States and Territories

Some State and Territory Governments and peak bodies have produced volunteering strategies, including:

- Volunteering Victoria *Manifesto (2014)*
<http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Volunteering-Victoria-Manifesto-January-2014.pdf>
- SA Government *Volunteering Strategy for South Australia (2014-2020)*
<http://www.savolunteeringstrategy.org.au/>
- Volunteering Queensland *Futuring Volunteer Management Report (2013)*
<http://volunteeringqld.org.au/web/index.php/policy-research/menu/policy/1264-futuring-volunteer-management-report>
- NSW Government *NSW Volunteering Strategy (2012)*
http://www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au/documents/23672909/23725145/Volunteer%20Strategy%20012_Final.pdf
- WA Government *Vital Volunteering (2011-2016)*
<http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/communities-in-focus/volunteers/Pages/Vital-Volunteering-2011-2016-State-Government%E2%80%99s-Support-for-Volunteering.aspx>

Economic and social value of volunteering

ABS Satellite Accounts 2006-07

An estimate of the economic value of volunteering in Australia during 2006-07 was provided in the ABS *Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account*.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/5256.0Main%20Features22006-07?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=5256.0&issue=2006-07&num=&view=>

The Real Value of Volunteering 2013

Dr Lisel O'Dwyer (University of Adelaide) provided an estimate of the economic value of volunteering in Australia during 2006 and 2010. She has recently re-evaluated her findings and revised her calculations.

More information coming soon.

https://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/pubs/policy-briefs/APMRC_Policy_Brief_Vol_1_11.pdf

Economic Value of Volunteering Reports for State and Territories

Some States and Territories have produced *Economic Value of Volunteering Reports*, including:

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- Tasmania (Muller, 2014)
<http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/Economic%20Value%20of%20Volunteering%20in%20Tasmania%20Report%202014.PDF>
- Victoria (Ironmonger, 2012)
<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Economic-Value-of-Volunteering-in-Victoria.pdf>
- South Australia (Ironmonger 2011)
http://www.ofv.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/8018/economic-value-of-volunteering-in-sa2011.pdf
- Western Australia (Ironmonger, 2009)
http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/Documents/Volunteers/Economic_Value_of_Volunteering_in_WA.pdf
- Queensland (Ironmonger, 2008)
<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/communityservices/volunteering/documents/economic-value-of-volunteering.pdf>

The Value of Volunteering: a discussion Paper on Volunteering in the Community and Welfare Sector 2008

This Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee report investigates the state of the voluntary sector in Australia (based on 2006 statistics), emerging trends and challenges facing the sector. It makes a number of recommendations about addressing these challenges, and improving support for volunteers and volunteering organisations.

http://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/house_of_representatives_committees?url=fc/hy/reports.htm

Contribution of the Not-For-Profit Sector 2010

This Productivity Commission report examines the contribution of the Australian not-for-profit sector. Section 10.1 focuses on the contribution of volunteers and volunteering, including information about the profile of volunteers in the sector and the costs associated with volunteering.

<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/not-for-profit/report>

Volunteering and happiness 2015

This Volunteering Australia webpage contains facts about volunteering and happiness.

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/fun-facts/>

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Indicators of Community Strength in Victoria: Framework and Evidence 2011

This Victorian Government report includes some information about the role of volunteering in strengthening Victorian communities, by building networks and mediating the psychological effects of disadvantage.

http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/142369/Indicators-of-community-strength-framework-and-evidence-final-July-2011.pdf

Literature reviews

- Contemporary practices and research in volunteering: a literature review 2012.
<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/communityservices/volunteering/documents/2012-report-on-volunteering.pdf>
- Giving and Volunteering in Australia: Environmental Scan/ Literature Review 2014
<http://www.communitybusinesspartnership.gov.au/giving-and-volunteering-in-australia/>

Latest research

Volunteering Victoria's *Research Digests* provide regular updates on the latest developments in volunteering research and analysis from reputable institutions and centres.

<http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/policy-advocacy/research-digests/>

Volunteering peak body resources

Volunteering Australia and the volunteering peak bodies for each State and Territory have extensive knowledge and resources specific to their jurisdictions. For further information, go to their website or contact them directly.

- **Volunteering Australia**
www.volunteeringaustralia.org
02 6251 4060
marketing@volunteeringaustralia.org
- **Volunteering ACT**
www.volunteeringact.org.au
02 6251 4060
customer.service@volunteeringact.org.au

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- **Centre for Volunteering (NSW)**
www.volunteering.com.au
02 9261 3600
info@volunteering.com.au
- **Volunteering Queensland**
www.volunteeringqld.org.au
07 3002 7600
admin@volunteeringqld.org.au
- **Volunteering SA & NT**
www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au
08 8221 7177
reception@volunteeringsa-nt.org.au
- **Volunteering Tasmania Inc**
www.volunteeringtas.org.au
03 6231 5550
admin@volunteeringtas.org.au
- **Volunteering Victoria**
www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au
03 8327 8500
info@volunteeringvictoria.org.au
- **Volunteering WA**
www.volunteeringwa.org.au
08 9482 4333
info@volunteeringwa.org.au

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