

Annual Report

2018 - 2019



Volunteering
AUSTRALIA

Chair and CEO Report

Volunteering Australia (VA) is pleased to report on a productive year with a focus on building strategic partnerships and advocating for a stronger and more effective volunteering sector.

Our policy and advocacy work focused on our key election platform, *leading a culture of giving in Australia*. In developing this platform we engaged with volunteers, managers of volunteers and sector partners to promote an increase in the way we value, invest and amplify volunteering.

We progressed issues on rights and protections of volunteers, working with Justice Connect to provide feedback to the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces. We also advocated to reduce the red tape burden of data collection through the Government's Data Exchange (DEX) and charitable fundraising requirements.

Working alongside the Settlement Council of Australia, we produced a snapshot report about settlement and volunteering in Australia which showed that 65% of new arrivals to Australia engaged with volunteering in the first 18 months of arrival.

Volunteering Australia was proud to partner with the Community Council for Australia on the *It Takes a Village* campaign and with Justice Connect on its *#fixfundraising* campaign, also consulting with many other sector partners including ACOSS, the Community Services Advisory Group and United Nations Volunteers.

We would like to thank the VA Board for their dedication and momentum through the year. As a newly established Board it has been exciting to start work on new initiatives and sharpen our focus on new partnerships, strategy and diversifying funding.

We also thank the staff at VA for their hard work over the past year, and for their commitment to the organisation and to the volunteering sector as a whole.

As we look ahead to a busy year in 2019/20 we look forward to reporting back on the launch of our brand new online clearinghouse, the National Volunteering Conference to be held in Perth, and a new look for National Volunteer Week 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Ewington'.

Michelle Ewington
President



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Picone'.

Adrienne Picone
CEO

About Volunteering Australia

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body for volunteering, working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. We actively provide consultative feedback and input to Government to influence public policy, and highlight its impact on Australia's nearly six million formal volunteers and the organisations to which they offer their time.

Vision

A stronger, more connected and resilient Australian community through volunteering.

Mission

To lead, strengthen, promote and celebrate volunteering in Australia.

15 Policy Submissions **26** EDMs Sent **14** Media Releases **5** Surveys Conducted

2018/19 Highlights

National Leadership, Advocacy and Policy

Issues Progressed

Volunteering Australia has strongly advocated for the recognition of volunteering, including adequate resourcing of volunteer management in grants and funding across community services.

The rights and protections of volunteers has been a key priority for Volunteering Australia. This year, we collaborated with Justice Connect and contributed a submission to the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces. The advocacy on this continues into the next financial year.

We campaigned for indexation to be applied to the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) and have been successful in having this applied from the 2019-20 budget.

VA has been advocating to the Department of Social Services for a review of the service type matrix of the Data Exchange (DEX) to reflect the work that is currently being undertaken by organisations funded under the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) and reduce the red tape burden. The advocacy on DEX continues into the next financial year.

VA has been working strongly to advocate on the issues relating to Jobactive, mutual obligations and its relation to volunteering as a potential pathway to employment. This includes making submissions to government inquiries and participating in consultative processes to strengthen policy, improve services and appropriately recognise the role of volunteering in the Government's employment programs.

Election Campaign

In the lead up to the 2019 federal election, Volunteering Australia called for all parties to adopt a policy platform that responds to the needs of the sector and leads a culture of giving.

VA wrote to the major parties seeking a commitment on policy proposals identified in our election platform. During the election period we received a number of commitments from all parties, including additional funding for new initiatives from the Liberal National Coalition.

Policy Paper: Addressing Barriers to Volunteering

Each financial year Volunteering Australia prepares a policy paper for the Department of Social Services. This year's paper is focused on barriers to volunteering and identifying ways to address these barriers.



Policy Manager, Lavanya Kala addresses the Senate Education and Employment Committees to discuss the issues relating to Jobactive, mutual obligations, work for the dole and the volunteering activity.

Informative and Useful Research

Volunteering and Settlement in Australia

Volunteering Australia and the Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA) produced a snapshot report on the role and nature of volunteering in the settlement sector. The research findings were informed by a short survey and builds an understanding of volunteering trends in the settlement sector, the individual and organisational benefits, challenges and possible solutions.



Emergency Volunteering 2030

Volunteering Australia is pleased to have been actively involved in important research from RMIT on 'Emergency Volunteering 2030' and its associated environmental scan. This research explores volunteering in emergency services and will be released progressively in the next year.

Volunteering Sector Clearinghouse

We were pleased to secure funding for a volunteering sector clearinghouse. Work will commence in the 2019/20 financial year on a review of sector resources, sourcing, collating and presenting resources in an online resource hub.



Volunteering Australia welcomed the announcement by the Hon Minister for Families and Social Services Paul Fletcher MP of around \$559,000 in funding for volunteering projects.

Collective Viability

Partnerships

Volunteering Australia has maintained strong ongoing partnerships with Aon, SEEK, Breaking New Ground, ProBono Australia and Hall & Wilcox and started to broaden a strategic engagement plan in line with Sustainable Development Goal 17, to work together to strengthen partnerships for sustainable development, including effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.



Increasing VA's strategic stakeholder base is a key initiative for the Board to ensure our work is responsive and relevant.

Financial Viability

Volunteering Australia was pleased to receive funding from the Department of Social Services at the end of the FY19, allocated for the establishment of a volunteering sector clearinghouse, National Volunteer Week 2020 and the biennial National Volunteering Conference held in 2020. The relaunched VA website promotes donations to the organisation and we are very grateful for the donations we receive from community members and supporters.

Membership Strategy

The State and Territory Peak Bodies for volunteering approved a new Constitution in August 2018, moving Volunteering Australia to a skills-based board and implementing a new membership model. This membership model provides the opportunity for individuals and organisations to be more involved in, and show their support for, VA's policy and advocacy work. Membership also encapsulates individuals that have given exceptional service to VA. Work is being undertaken with key stakeholders to refine the broader rollout of the new membership model in the coming year.

Associate Members

During the year the VA Constitution was reviewed with a new category of membership being developed for Associate Members. These are Members of the State and Territory peaks who can now opt to also become Members of VA, at no extra cost. We are delighted to welcome our Associate Members on board and look forward to representing them at the national level.

Foundation Members

Volunteering Australia's Foundation Members are the seven State and Territory volunteering peak bodies. VA and the Foundation Members work in partnership to lead, strengthen, promote and celebrate volunteering and civic participation in Australia. We collaborate through regular network meetings, engagement at Board level, consultation on sector and policy issues, distribution of research and other relevant sector communications, and sharing and development of national resources including GoVolunteer, the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement and National Volunteer Week.

Effective Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Communication

11,447

↑ **17%**

Facebook Followers

6,155

↑ **8%**

Twitter Followers

3,110

↑ **24%**

Instagram Followers

838

↑ **46%**

LinkedIn Followers

9,712

↑ **29%**

Newsletter Recipients

Events

National Volunteer Week 2019 was held in May with the theme *Making a World of Difference*, acknowledging the almost six million formal volunteers and many others who volunteer informally around the country. National Volunteer Week (NWW) also celebrated 30 years in 2019, now the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia.

Volunteering Australia was delighted that our patron, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove, hosted afternoon tea at Government House, with managers of volunteers, volunteers and sector partners coming together to celebrate NWW.

We were also proud to support National Student Volunteer Week, Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day), International Volunteer Managers Day and International Volunteer Day. These important events celebrate people across the volunteering sector and recognise the role volunteers and managers of volunteer play in strengthening local communities.

Volunteering Australia CEO Adrienne Picone was pleased to speak at the 25th IAVE World Volunteer Conference in Germany. Adrienne spoke about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how volunteering can contribute to meeting the SDGs.

Website Redevelopment

Volunteering Australia launched a new website in early 2019, allowing for improved access to information and resources including our policy, advocacy and research work. The new

website has fully integrated our social media platforms and the Go Volunteer search facility for volunteer roles as well as improvements to the online shop for volunteer merchandise.

Stakeholder Engagement

Volunteering Australia has continued to work closely with sector partners on issues-based policy and advocacy initiatives. We partnered with the Community Council for Australia (CCA) on the #ittakesavillage campaign, have been a strong supporter of Justice Connect's #fixfundraising campaign and we are an active member of the ACOSS network. VA also continues work with Australian Volunteers International (AVI).

We have maintained constructive working relationships with the Federal Government and have been an active participant to advisory groups and consultative processes including:

- DSS Community Services Advisory Group
- Future of Employment Services Roundtable
- Coalition to End Loneliness
- Workplace Giving Awards
- Australian Local Government Association
- Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum
- United Nations Volunteers
- Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
- Community Broadcasters Australia

National Volunteer Week 2019 celebrations at Government House

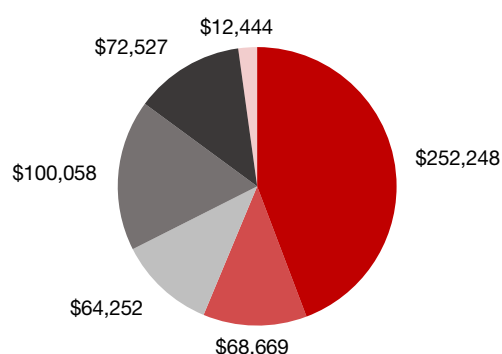


Finance Information

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019

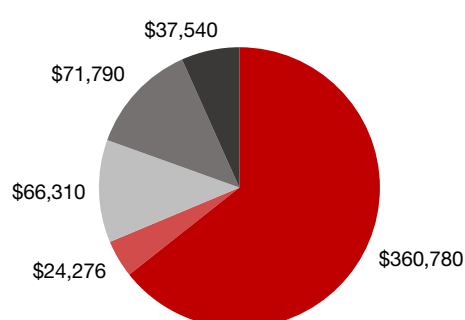
	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)	% change
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	462,357	576,284	-20%
Investment held to maturity	200,000	-	100%
Trade and other receivables	902	41,290	-98%
Inventories	11,828	8,355	42%
Other assets	9,635	10,104	-5%
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	684,722	636,033	8%
Office Equipment	-	1,368	-100%
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	-	1,368	-100%
TOTAL ASSETS	684,722	637,401	7%
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	49,771	251,871	-80%
Employee benefits	11,893	16,177	-26%
Income in Advance	299,858	23,130	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	361,522	291,178	24%
Amount held in trust	-	1	-100%
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	1	-100%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	361,522	291,179	24%
NET ASSETS	323,200	346,222	-7%
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	323,200	346,222	-7%
TOTAL EQUITY	323,200	346,222	-7%

Sources of Income FY19



- Grant Income
- Project, Sponsorship & Conference Income
- Membership Income
- Merchandise Sales
- Donations
- Other Income

Expenses FY19



- Employee Benefits Expense
- Marketing expenses
- Other Expenses from Ordinary Activities
- Professional Expenses
- Travel & Accommodation

Our Supporters and People

Chief Patron

His Excellency General the Honourable
Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

Our Supporters

- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Pro Bono Australia
- SEEK
- The Sydney Boulevard Hotel
- Aon
- National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- Hall & Wilcox
- Breaking New Ground
- Susan Alberti AC

Foundation Members

- Volunteering and Contact ACT
- The Centre for Volunteering (NSW)
- Volunteering Queensland
- Volunteering SA&NT
- Volunteering Tasmania
- Volunteering Victoria
- Volunteering WA

Board (as at 30 June 2019)

- Michelle Ewington, Chair
- Susan Alberti AC, Co-Deputy Chair
- Mark Pearce, Co-Deputy Chair
- Peter Lucas, Treasurer
- Kit McMahon, Secretary
- Esme Bowen
- Amit Jois
- Tara Waniganayaka

Staff and Volunteers

- Adrienne Picone, CEO & Public Officer
- Lavanya Kala, Policy Manager
- Rebecca Rowland, Office and Systems Administrator
- Kylie Harding, Finance Manager (until November 2018)
- Helen Quiggin, Finance Manager (from November 2018)
- Kylie Hughes, Communications & Marketing Coordinator (to April 2019)
- Jenny Brain, Communications Coordinator (from April 2019)
- Jesse Lodder, Volunteer NWW2019 Research Assistant (March – May 2019)

Volunteering AUSTRALIA

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