

Summary Analysis of Key 2022-23 Federal Budget Measures

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Overview

Core funding for volunteering maintained

As in the 2021-22 Federal Budget, the 'Volunteering and Community Connectedness' funding stream contains funding for three existing programs: the Volunteer Management Activity, Volunteer Grants, and the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity.

- Allocated funds are \$85,948,000 (2022-23), \$63,957,000 (2023-24), \$56,931,000 (2024-25), and \$56,842,000 (2025-26).
- The Department of Social Services has confirmed that funding for the Volunteer Management Activity and Volunteer Grants have been extended into the forward estimates.

Volunteering in other portfolios

To note: as in previous years, there are several Budget allocations relevant to volunteering where it is not clear whether volunteers will be included.

- \$547.0 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to provide mental health Stage 2 reforms through the 5 pillars of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.
 - o \$52.3 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for *Lifeline* to provide mental health supports.
- \$32.9 million to ensure that mental health services and treatment are available to support Australians impacted by natural disasters and other emergency response events.
 - o \$4.0 million to the Black Dog Institute to establish a new National Mental Health Service for Emergency Service Workers **and Volunteers**.
- \$119.3 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to support international sporting events and sport participation in Australia.
 - o \$10.3 million over 2 years from 2022-23 for the continuation of the *Participation Grant* program to promote participation in community sport and physical activity.
 - o \$3.4 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for the continuation of the AusPlay survey, which includes figures on volunteer involvement in sport in Australia.
- Under the Veterans' Community Care and Support funding stream, 'Carer and volunteer support' is allocated \$727,000 in 2021-22, \$1,401,000 in 2022-23, \$1,403,000 in 2023-24, \$1,409,000 in 2024-25, and \$1,498,000 in 2025-26.

Introduction

In our Pre-Budget submission, Volunteering Australia made the following recommendations on measures to support volunteering in the 2022-23 Federal Budget:

1. **A Volunteering COVID-19 Recovery Plan.** This plan would enable volunteers to re-engage safely, support the adaptation of volunteering programs, and facilitate the recruitment of new volunteers to ensure services and programs can recover.
2. **A Volunteering Futures Program.** This program would facilitate the future adaptation of volunteering and support the strategic priorities identified in the new National Strategy for Volunteering currently under development.
3. **A National Youth Volunteering Initiative.** Young people have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19. This initiative could mitigate against poor

mental health outcomes for unemployed young people and support pathways to paid employment.

4. **A nationally coordinated approach to volunteer engagement in emergencies.** As the frequency and scale of emergencies in Australia increases, a nationally coordinated approach will help to mobilise volunteers rapidly, safely, and effectively.
5. **Investment in the Aged Care volunteer workforce.** Funding should be allocated for the Aged Care Royal Commission's volunteering recommendations in Budget 2022-23 and into the forward estimates.

Volunteering and Community Connectedness funding

As in the 2021-22 Federal Budget, the 'Volunteering and Community Connectedness' funding stream contains funding for three existing programs: the Volunteer Management Activity, Volunteer Grants, and the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity. This funding is delivered under the Social Services portfolio.

- Allocated funds are \$85,948,000 (2022-23), \$63,957,000 (2023-24), \$56,931,000 (2024-25), and \$56,842,000 (2025-26).
- The Department of Social Services has confirmed that funding for the Volunteer Management Activity and Volunteer Grants have been extended into the forward estimates.

Volunteering in other portfolios

Agriculture, Water and Environment

- \$100.0 million over 3 years from 2022-23 for the Environment Restoration Fund to support community-driven action to protect and restore the environment.
 - The Fund supports many major volunteer initiatives, including the Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteers.

Future Proofing Australia's Unique Landscapes, Animals and Plants

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	-	40.0	40.0	20.0	-

Education, Skills and Employment

- \$153.5 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to address workforce shortages, support job seekers to find employment, and make it easier for vulnerable Australians to participate in the workforce.
 - No measures are included to support access to volunteering opportunities or to promote volunteering as a pathway to employment.

Boosting Participation and Building Australia's Workforce

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Services Australia	1.1	4.2	0.4	-	-
Department of Education, Skills and Employment	0.6	13.2	16.2	13.3	8.0
Department of the Treasury	-	26.5	22.1	-	-
Department of Social Services	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Payments	1.7	43.8	38.6	13.3	8.0

- \$1.3 billion over 5 years from 2021-22 to support employers to engage and retain new apprentices, and reform the Australian Apprenticeships system to sustain a skilled and responsive workforce.

Foreign Affairs and Trade

- No additional funding was announced for the Australian Volunteers program.

Health

Ageing and Aged Care

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Health	-	36.9	25.9	8.2	3.5
Department of the Treasury	-	10.3	10.3	-	-
Department of Social Services	-	2.5	1.8	-	-
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	0.9	-	-	-
NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	-	0.4	-	-	-
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	-3.3	25.4	-	-	-
Total – Payments	-3.3	76.3	37.9	8.2	3.5

- \$468.3 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to further implement the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, to improve transparency and regulatory standards and continue ongoing reforms announced in the 2021-22 Budget.
 - Pillar 4 (Workforce): \$10.8 million in 2022-23 for the Cross-Agency Taskforce on Regulatory Alignment to implement the next stage of regulatory reforms across the aged, disability and veterans' care sectors.
 - It is not yet clear how funding will be allocated to support Recommendation 44: Volunteers and Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme, which recommended increased funding for Volunteer Grants and the Community Visitors Scheme. Some

additional funding for this was announced in December 2021.¹ The new Re-engaging Volunteers into Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) Program program announced in March 2022 also supports this recommendation,² though funding was provided from the 2021-22 Budget.

COVID-19 Response Package – ageing and aged care

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Health	210.3	228.9	12.3	3.0	3.1
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	0.4	-	-	-
Services Australia	-	0.1	-	-	-
Total – Payments	210.3	229.4	12.3	3.0	3.1
<i>Related receipts (\$m)</i>					
<i>Australian Taxation Office</i>	<i>45.9</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

- An additional \$458.1 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to support older Australians in the aged care sector with managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - \$50.4 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to improve the capability and capacity of the residential aged care workforce to deliver vaccination services to residents and staff. **This should include volunteers.**
 - \$7.9 million in 2022-23 to extend and expand the commissioned home visits initiative for COVID-19 positive patients in residential aged care facilities for a further 3 months to 30 September 2022.

COVID-19 Response Package – personal protective equipment and rapid antigen tests

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Health	2,719.9	227.8	-	-	-
National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch Transition Agency	81.1	-	-	-	-
Department of the Treasury	-371.8	-95.3	-	-	-
Total – Payments	2,429.1	132.5	-	-	-

- \$2.6 billion over 2 years from 2021-22 for the procurement and distribution of rapid antigen tests (RATs) and personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - No mention of RATs or PPE to be provided to the charities and not-for-profits sector.

¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/6326-million-to-improve-aged-care-for-senior-australians#home-care>

² <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/re-engaging-volunteers-into-residential-aged-care-facilities-program>

- Volunteer involving organisations have not received adequate support to minimise the risks to volunteers of continued engagement during the pandemic, including in the provision of rapid antigen tests.

International Sporting Events and Community Sport Participation

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Australian Sports Commission	-	30.0	47.1	23.4	-
Department of Health	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Payments	-	30.0	47.1	23.4	-

- \$119.3 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to support international sporting events and sport participation in Australia.
 - \$10.3 million over 2 years from 2022-23 for the continuation of the Participation Grant program to promote participation in community sport and physical activity.
 - \$3.4 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for the continuation of the AusPlay survey, which monitors national sport and physical activity behaviours and trends. **This includes data on volunteer involvement in sport.**

Preventive Health – National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Health	-	15.1	5.5	5.3	2.1

- \$30.1 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to improve health outcomes through preventive and other health initiatives under the *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030*.
 - The *National Preventive Health Strategy* acknowledged volunteers as “prevention partners.” While none of the funding announced in this budget is allocated to volunteering, future funding for community and social health outcomes should include measures for volunteers and volunteer involving organisations.

Prioritising Mental Health

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Health	19.3	97.7	93.8	58.1	39.8
Services Australia	0.1	1.0
National Indigenous Australians Agency	-	0.4	0.4	0.4	-
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1
Australian Public Service Commission	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Education, Skills and Employment	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Defence	-8.3	-	-	-	-
Total – Payments	11.1	99.1	94.4	58.7	39.9

- \$547.0 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to provide mental health Stage 2 reforms through the 5 pillars of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan – Prevention and

Early Intervention, Suicide Prevention, Treatment, Supporting Vulnerable Australians and Workforce and Governance.

- \$52.3 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for **Lifeline** to provide mental health supports.
- \$64.7 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to implement the first stages of the 10-year mental health workforce strategy.
 - \$6.2 million over 3 years from 2021-22 to support the mental health of **health workers**. It is unclear whether this funding will also support volunteers. Volunteering Australia provided a submission on the consultation draft of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy recommending that volunteer roles in the mental health sector should be acknowledged and resourced appropriately. This recommendation was echoed in the final report by the House of Representatives Select Committee on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, which recommended that the Australian Government “formally acknowledge the value of the volunteer mental health workforce, with consideration of its role, training, and standards included in the final National Mental Health Workforce Strategy and subsequent implementation plans.”
- \$32.9 million to ensure that mental health services and treatment are available to support Australians impacted by natural disasters and other emergency response events.
- \$4.0 million to the Black Dog Institute to establish a new National Mental Health Service for Emergency Service Workers **and Volunteers**.

Home Affairs

Safer Communities Fund Round Six

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Home Affairs	-	35.0	15.0	-	-

- An additional \$50.0 million over 2 years from 2022-23 through Round 6 of the Safer Communities Fund. Grant funding will be available for local government and community organisation initiatives that address crime and anti-social behaviour.

Prime Minister and Cabinet

Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants – expansion

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
National Recovery and Resilience Agency	-	-	-	-	-

- An additional \$116.4 million over 3 years from 2021-22 through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program to provide increased support for community projects to assist with recovery and resilience.³

Disaster Support

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of the Treasury	-	-	-	-	-
National Recovery and Resilience Agency	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Home Affairs	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
Total – Payments	-	-	-	-	-

- Disaster Support
 - \$10.0 million over 2 years from 2021-22 for a national program run by Fortem Australia to provide psychological support, wellbeing activities and training in maintaining mental health for first responders involved in natural disaster settings. Volunteers are not mentioned explicitly.
 - A review of the disaster recovery funding arrangements consistent with recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, with costs to be met from within the existing resources of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. Given the Commission’s emphasis on volunteer coordination and recovery volunteerism, these should be given specific and sustained consideration throughout this process.
- No further funding is provided to support the development of more coordinated national natural disaster arrangements which better plan for volunteer involvement in crisis response and recovery.

Indigenous Voice – Local and Regional Voice Implementation

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
National Indigenous Australians Agency	-	31.8	-	-	-

- \$31.8 million in 2022-23 to commence establishment of 35 Local and Regional Voice bodies across Australia. Local and Regional Voices will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in every community to have a greater say in public policy, programs and service delivery affecting their lives through co-design and shared decision making.

³ ‘Funding for this measure has already been provided for by the Government’

Remote Engagement Program

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
National Indigenous Australians Agency	-	-	-0.9	-0.2	-
Department of Social Services	-	-	5.8	0.2	-
Services Australia	-1.7	1.2	0.4
Total – Payments	3.1	1.2	0.4

- \$11.5 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to continue the 5 pilots supporting the design of the Remote Engagement Program and to respond to the Basil Joshua Dawson & Ors v Commonwealth of Australia (the Community Development Program Class Action).
- The existing 5 pilot regions will continue for a further 2 years as part of this measure, with the full roll out of the Remote Engagement Program commencing on 1 July 2024. The Remote Engagement Program will replace the Community Development Program and support remote communities by targeting job creation and skills development.
 - Volunteering Australia provided a submission on the Remote Engagement Program, recommending that the program should recognise the socio-economic value of Indigenous volunteering in remote Australia and the importance of volunteering as a pathway to employment, and empower and work in conjunction with Indigenous volunteer and community networks.

Social Services

Administration of the Pandemic Disaster Leave Payment, Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and Disaster Recovery Allowance

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Services Australia	450.0	-	-	-	-

- \$450.0 million in 2021-22 to Services Australia to respond to emergencies including the delivery of the COVID Pandemic Disaster Leave Payment as well as the delivery of the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments made in response to the Queensland and New South Wales floods.

Strong and Resilient Communities Grants – expansion

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Social Services	-	-	-	-	-

- The Government will provide \$45.1 million over 4 years from 2021-22 to expand the Strong and Resilient Communities grant program to support around 120 additional local

community-driven projects to increase the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.⁴

Veterans' Affairs

Support for Veterans and their Wellbeing

Payments (\$m)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Defence	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	74.8	17.8	18.5	15.6
Total – Payments	-	74.8	17.8	18.5	15.6

- \$165.0 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to support veterans and improve wellbeing support services for veterans and their families.
 - \$20.0 million over 2 years from 2021-22 to fund innovative community-level projects through the *Veteran Wellbeing Grants Program*.
 - \$13.7 million over 3 years from 2022-23 to the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation to support children of current and former Australian Defence Force members who have been affected by mental illness.
 - Funding in the Veterans' Affairs portfolio includes a 'Carer and volunteer support' line item, which has been allocated \$727,000 in 2021-22, \$1,401,000 in 2022-23, \$1,403,000 in 2023-24, \$1,409,000 in 2024-25, \$1,498,000 in 2025-26.

Cross Portfolio

- Flood Package:
 - \$25.0 million to provide additional funding for Financial Wellbeing and Capability activities including emergency relief, food relief and financial counselling for communities affected by the floods in NSW and Queensland.

⁴ 'Funding for this measure has already been provided for by the Government'

Authorisation

This submission has been authorised by the Chief Executive Officer of Volunteering Australia.



Mr Mark Pearce
Chief Executive Officer

Endorsements

This submission has been endorsed by the seven State and Territory volunteering peak bodies.



About Volunteering Australia

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body for volunteering, working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. The seven State and Territory volunteering peak bodies work to advance and promote volunteering in their respective jurisdictions and are Foundation Members of Volunteering Australia.

Volunteering Australia's vision is to promote strong, connected communities through volunteering. Our mission is to lead, strengthen, promote, and celebrate volunteering in Australia.

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