

Highlights of the 2022-23 Federal Budget Measures (March 2022)

Volunteering and Community Connectedness

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.

Other highlights relevant to volunteering

- \$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.
- \$49.5 million for aged care training for existing workers and people who want to work in the sector.
- \$157.8 billion over four years for the NDIS.

- Care and Support Workforce Strategy: \$249.1 million will be invested as part of the Government's commitment to increasing the quality, skills, size and attractiveness of the care and support workforce.
- The Government is providing free Rapid Antigen Tests to NDIS Supported Independent Living residents and workers, in line with the National Cabinet's agreement to the new Australian Health Protection Principal Committee guidance. However, it is not clear whether volunteers are planned to be included under this funding.
- \$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.
 - o Includes \$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 care, disability support, and veterans' care sectors.
- \$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.
 - o \$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.
- \$2.6 billion over 2 years from 2021-22 for the procurement and distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests and Personal Protective Equipment.
 - o Volunteer involving organisations, especially those that work with vulnerable people, are not specified.
- \$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*.
 - o \$9.7 million over 3 years from 2022-23 to extend community driven initiatives to improve levels of physical activity.
- \$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.
- \$11.5 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to continue the 5 pilots supporting the design of the *Remote Engagement Program*.
- \$11 billion in 2022-23 on child care programs, including \$10.7 billion in Child Care Subsidy (CCS) expenditure.
 - o The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) aims to improve access to quality child care by providing assistance to meet the cost of child care for families engaged in work, training, study or other recognised activity. This **includes volunteering**.
- \$1.1 billion over 2 years from 2022-23 to support the Government's emergency response to COVID-19.