



4441.0 Voluntary Work, Australia

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Voluntary work is an important contribution to national life. It meets needs within the community and helps to develop and reinforce social networks and cohesion. In the Survey of Voluntary Work a volunteer was defined as someone who, in the last 12 months, willingly gave unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group.

CHANGE IN VOLUNTEERING OVER TIME

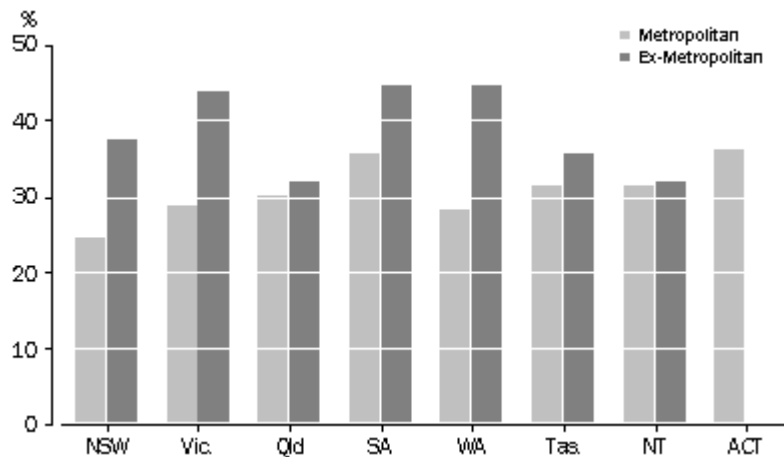
The estimated number of volunteers aged 18 years and over in 2000 was 4,395,600, representing 32% of the civilian population of the same age. In 1995 the estimated 3,189,400 volunteers represented 24% of the population. Growth in volunteer rates occurred for both sexes and across all age groups, but particularly the 18-24 (17% to 27%) and 55-64 (24% to 33%) years groups (table 2).

In 2000, volunteers contributed 704.1 million hours of voluntary work, an increase on the 1995 figure of 511.7 (table 3). However, the median weekly hours of voluntary work remained stable at 1.4 (table 4).

GEOGRAPHICAL COMPARISONS

As in 1995, the volunteer rate varied across States and Territories, from 38% in South Australia to 29% in New South Wales (table 5). Notwithstanding the relatively high rate for Adelaide (36%), people were more likely to volunteer if they lived outside a capital city. The volunteer rate was 28% for capital cities compared to 38% outside the capital cities. The lowest volunteer rate (25%) occurred in Sydney while the balance of Western Australia (outside Perth) had the highest (45%).

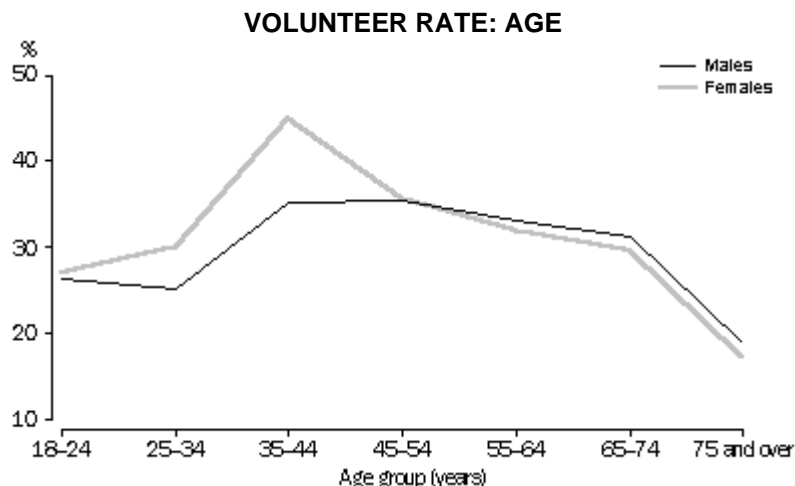
VOLUNTEER RATE: STATES AND TERRITORIES



WHO VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteer rates varied across different groups in the population. They were slightly higher for women than men (33% compared to 31%) and, with a few exceptions, this was the case regardless of birthplace, family status, labour force status (table 2) or location (table 5). Volunteer rates among the older age groups were marginally higher for men than for women as were the rates for partners with dependent children and non-family members not living alone. Men employed full-time also had a slightly higher rate of volunteering (34%) than women employed on the same basis (31%).

The pattern of volunteering varied with age and life stage. People aged 35-44 years reported the highest rate of volunteering (40%). At these ages people are more likely to be married with children and their higher than average volunteer rate reflects their family commitments. This is most marked for women. Thus, female partners with dependent children had a volunteer rate of 45% compared to 28% for female partners without dependent children. Similarly, women employed part-time had a higher volunteer rate (44%) than those employed full-time (31%) (table 2).

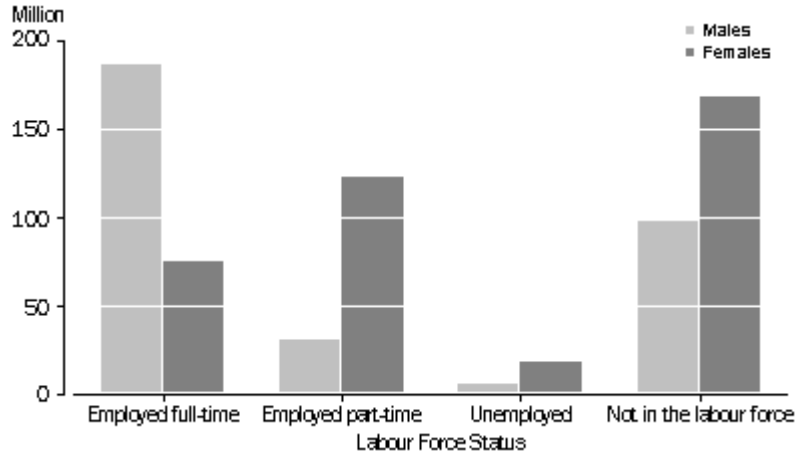


People born in Australia were more likely to undertake voluntary work than those born outside Australia, 35% and 25% respectively.

People in paid employment, either full-time or part-time, were more likely to volunteer than those who were unemployed or not in the labour force (table 2). However, in aggregate, people not in the labour force contributed slightly more hours of voluntary work (265.2 million hours a year) than people who were employed full-time (260.7 million hours a year) or part-time (154.1 million hours) (table 3). This pattern differed for males and females. Among males the largest contribution (58% of male hours) came from those employed full-time while among females the largest contribution (44% of female hours) was made by those not in the labour force. People not in the labour force also had the highest median weekly hours of voluntary

work (2.1), while those employed full-time had the lowest (1.0) (table 4).

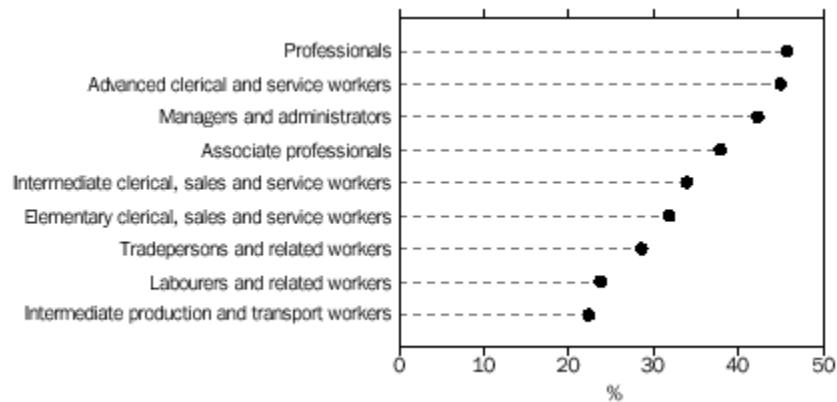
ANNUAL HOURS OF VOLUNTARY WORK: LABOUR FORCE STATUS



RELATIONSHIP WITH PAID EMPLOYMENT

For employed people the volunteer rate varied considerably between occupational groupings. Professionals had the highest participation rate (46%), closely followed by advanced clerical, sales and service workers (45%) and managers and administrators (42%). Intermediate production and transport workers had the lowest rate (22%) (table 6).

VOLUNTEER RATE: OCCUPATION



The nature of people's voluntary work was closely related to their type of paid employment. Managers and administrators were more likely than other occupational groups to do management and committee work (64% compared to 45% for volunteers overall), professionals were more likely to teach (65% compared to 44%) and tradespersons were much more likely to undertake repairs, maintenance or gardening activities (47% compared to 25%) (table 22).

The industry in which a person was employed was also related to their type of volunteer involvement. The following industries and types of organisations showed a strong association (table 16):

- health and community services industries and volunteers in health organisations (14% of volunteers from the industry, compared to 8% of all volunteers);

- education industries and education, training and youth development organisations (45% compared to 28%);

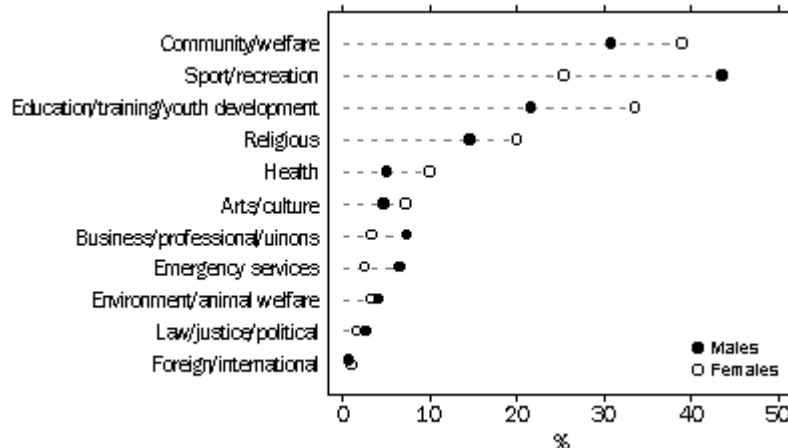
VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENTS

Almost two-thirds of volunteers (65%) worked for one organisation only (table 9) and a further 31% worked for two or three. There was a slight variation by age with younger people more likely than others to work for only one organisation and the middle age group (45-54 years) more likely to work for three or more organisations.

Two types of organisations together claimed almost half of all volunteer hours; community/welfare (26%) and sport/recreation (21%) (table 19). Together with religious (17%) and education/training/youth development (14%) types of organisations, they accounted for almost 80% of all volunteer hours. These four categories were also the largest in terms of the number of volunteer involvements (table 14).

Male volunteers were most likely to be involved in sporting or recreational organisations. For females, community/welfare organisations involved the largest number (table 14). Although there were slightly more female than male volunteers overall, there were many more male involvements than female in the fields of sport/recreation, business/professional/union, and emergency services.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT RATE: TYPE OF ORGANISATION



TYPES OF VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

As is the case for people in paid employment, volunteers perform a range of different tasks when undertaking voluntary work. The activities most frequently reported by volunteers were fundraising (56%), management (45%), teaching (44%) and administration (41%) (table 21).

The sex segregation observed among some occupations for paid work is also evident in voluntary work activities. For example, female volunteers were much more likely than male volunteers to be preparing and serving food (47% compared to 23%) whereas men were more likely than women to be involved in such activities as repairs, maintenance and gardening (38% compared to 14%), and coaching and refereeing (29% compared to 16%).

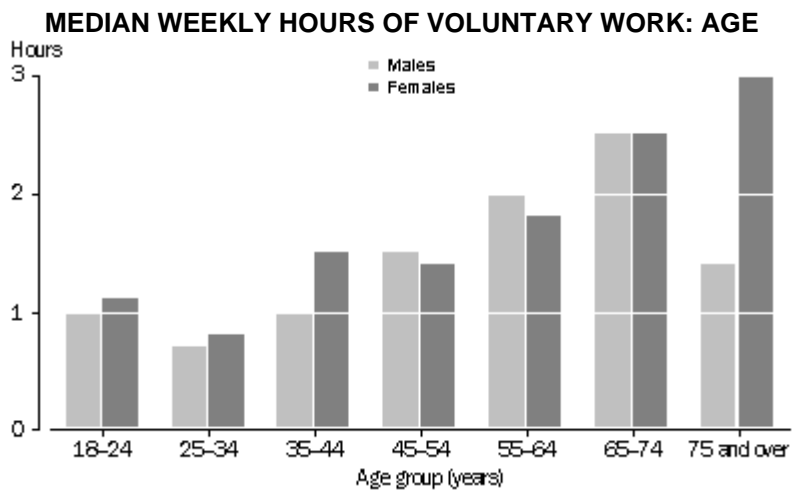
VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY RATE: TYPE OF ACTIVITY



HOURS WORKED

Because most volunteers contributed relatively few hours, while a minority worked for a large number of hours, the arithmetic mean is a misleading measure of hours worked by the average volunteer. The median is a more appropriate measure for purposes of comparison.

The median hours of voluntary work per week was 1.4 or about 72 hours per year. This was greater for women than men (74 hours compared to 64 hours). Although the number of volunteers was highest in the age group 35-44 years, median hours of voluntary work tended to increase steadily with age, up to the 65-74 years age group where the median hours were 2.5 per week (table 4). This correlates with the decrease in family and paid work commitments with advancing age.



Just over a quarter (28%) of all volunteers spent less than 20 hours per year on voluntary work. Around 13% of volunteers contributed 140-299 hours and a further 8% contributed 300 hours or more per year. Median hours spent working for religious organisations were the highest of all the types of organisations (60 hours per year) (table 20).

Median hours per year worked by females were considerably greater than those worked by males in health (45 hours compared to 32 hours), education (40 hours compared to 28 hours), and religious (72 hours compared to 52 hours) organisations.

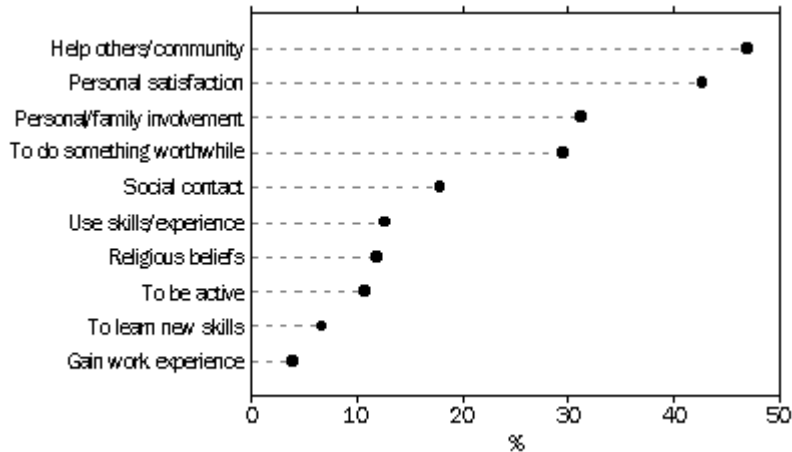
ONGOING COMMITMENT

In total there were almost 6.5 million involvements in voluntary work. Over a quarter (28%) of these occurred at least once a week (table 10). Regular (weekly) voluntary work accounted for 73% of all voluntary hours worked indicating a substantial commitment of time, skill and effort on the part of volunteers (table 18). In addition, 40% of volunteers had been working for their current types of organisations for at least six years and around 25% for more than 10 years (table 17). However, for many volunteers their first experience of volunteering had occurred earlier, with 48% having first volunteered more than 10 years ago (table 7).

REASONS FOR BEING A VOLUNTEER

Voluntary work provides benefits to the community. This was acknowledged as a current reason for volunteering by 47% of volunteers. However, volunteers also identified benefits to themselves with 43% reporting personal satisfaction. For the 18-24 years age group volunteering was also seen as a way to learn new skills and to gain work experience (13% and 17%, respectively) (table 11).

PROPORTION OF VOLUNTEERS: CURRENT REASONS FOR BEING A VOLUNTEER(a)



(a) Volunteers may give more than one reason. Therefore figures for individual categories will not add to 100%.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

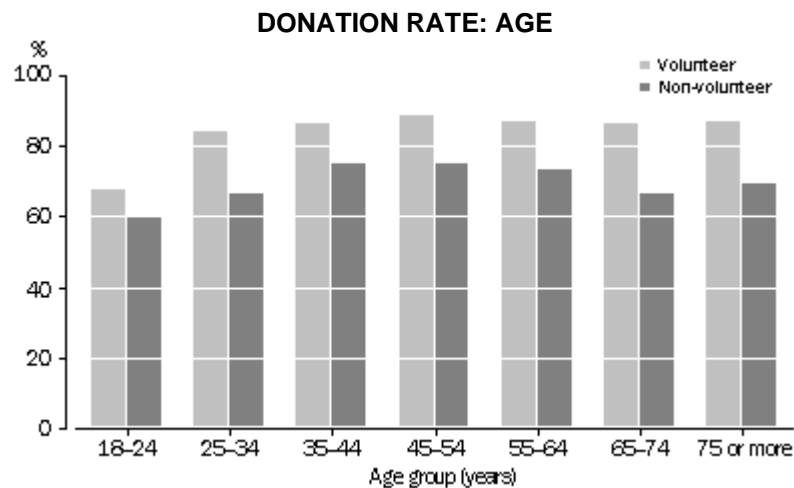
Over half of those who first became involved in voluntary work in the last 10 years were either asked to volunteer by someone (32%) or they knew someone involved (29%). Volunteers were rarely recruited through the media; only 4% became involved in volunteering in response to a media report or an advertisement (table 8).

SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC VOLUNTEERS

Voluntary work for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games has been explicitly excluded from the survey estimates (see Explanatory Notes). However, data provided by the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (SOCOG) show that there were around 47,500 Olympic volunteers, the majority from NSW. As for non-Olympic volunteers, there were slightly more women than men but the age profile was slightly younger. Around 40% of Olympic volunteers were aged less than 35 years compared to 29% of volunteers generally.

DONATIONS

Personal donations of money to organisations were made by 10,270,700 people aged 18 years and over in the 12 months prior to interview. This represents 74% of the equivalent population. People who were volunteers donated at a higher rate than non-volunteers (84% compared to 70%) and females whether volunteers or not donated at a higher rate than males (table 23). Among volunteers, the peak age group for making monetary donations was 45-54 years (88%) but the donation rate was above 85% for all age groups over 25-34 years. Among non-volunteers the pattern was slightly different with the peak donation group being 35-44 years (75%) and the donation rate declining to below 70% thereafter.



EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the Survey of Voluntary Work conducted throughout Australia in 2000 using the Population Survey Monitor (PSM), a quarterly household-based collection. The major aim of the survey was to collect data on rates of participation in voluntary work, characteristics of people who volunteer, the types of organisations they work for, and the kinds of activities they undertake. Information on whether people made monetary donations to organisations was also collected.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 All usual residents in private dwellings are included in the PSM. The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia, except sparsely settled and Indigenous areas, which account for approximately 85,000 persons aged 18 years and over. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual States and Territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for approximately 19% of the population. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded.

SAMPLE DESIGN

3 For each quarterly survey, multi-stage area sampling techniques were used to select a sample of private dwellings. In each dwelling, one adult (aged 18 years or over) member was then randomly selected for interview. The Survey of Voluntary Work was conducted in each of the four quarters of 2000 and information was obtained from 12,900 persons. This corresponds to a response rate of 88%.

DATA COLLECTION

4 Information was obtained by personal interviews conducted by trained ABS interviewers who have extensive experience in conducting household surveys.

5 The willing cooperation of selected households is sought. Measures taken to encourage cooperation and maximise response include:

- advice to selected households by letter, accompanied by an information brochure explaining that their dwelling has been selected for the survey, the purposes of the survey, its official nature and the confidentiality of the information collected;
- call-backs and follow-up to ensure that every effort is made to contact the occupants of each selected dwelling, and to conduct the survey in those dwellings.

DATA INTERPRETATION

6 A previous Survey of Voluntary Work was conducted in June 1995 as a supplementary topic to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The two survey methodologies differ and results from the 1995 survey have been recalculated to achieve greater comparability (see Technical Note 2: Reprocessing of 1995 Data).

7 Volunteers may work for more than one organisation and may undertake more than one type of activity for each organisation. During the interview, volunteers were asked to provide information on their work in the previous 12 months for up to three organisations. If they had worked for more than three organisations, questions about the types of organisations and activities undertaken were restricted to the three organisations for which they had worked the most hours. In tables showing type of organisation, a volunteer may therefore be counted up to three times. For example, if a volunteer worked for two sport/recreation organisations and one community/welfare organisation, that volunteer would be counted twice under sport/recreation and once under community/welfare. In tables showing type of voluntary activity, a volunteer may be counted multiple times through undertaking several types of activity for one organisation, one type of activity for up to three organisations or several activities for up to three organisations.

8 The survey provided an estimate of 4.4 million volunteers. In aggregate they had 6.5 million involvements with organisations, undertook 15.7 million activities and contributed 704.1 million hours of voluntary work. Where volunteer involvement or activity rates are shown in tables, the denominator used is total volunteers.

SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS

9 During the survey development phase it was recognised that the expected large volunteer work force for the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games could impact on the survey results and affect comparability with the 1995 results. Any voluntary work for the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games or for the Olympic Road Transport Authority has been excluded from the survey estimates.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

10 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

How Australians Use Their Time, 1997 (Cat. no. 4153.0)

Unpaid Work and the Australian Economy, 1997 (Cat. no. 5240.0)

Involvement in Sport, Australia, 1997 (Cat. no. 6285.0)

Work in Selected Culture/Leisure Activities, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 6281.0)

TECHNICAL NOTE 1 DATA RELIABILITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age, sex and area, rather than to the age-sex-area distribution within the sample itself. The estimation procedure is designed to adjust estimates in such a way as to reduce any non-response bias by adjusting the weights of person records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

2 Expansion factors or weights are inserted into each person's record to enable the data provided by these persons to be expanded to provide estimates relating to the whole population within the scope of the survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

3 Estimates in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

Non-sampling error

4 Non-sampling error may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. This type of error can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers, and errors in data entry and processing.

5 It is difficult to measure the size of non-sampling errors and the extent of such errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effect of these errors.

Sampling error

6 Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATES

7 One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of sampling is the **standard error** (SE). This measures the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of the population was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all persons had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that it is within two standard errors. That is, there are 19 chances in 20 that the true estimate is in the range:

$$x - 2SE(x) \text{ to } x + 2SE(x), \text{ where } x \text{ is the estimate}$$

8 The SE of an estimate may be obtained from the tables below.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS

9 The SE can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the *relative standard error* (RSE). In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases.

Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable.

10 The RSE is determined by dividing the SE of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is:

$$RSE(x) = SE(x) \times (100/x)$$

11 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y .

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

12 In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (eg *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (eg **0.3) and are considered too unreliable for general use. They should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

13 The following tables provide standard errors and relative standard errors for estimates of persons. Standard errors for estimates of hours are available on request.

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES OF PERSONS

Estimate ('000)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACTAustralia	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
5	4,600	4,500	3,600	2,500	2,800	1,400	1,000	1,200	3,400
10	6,800	6,500	5,400	3,700	3,900	2,000	1,300	1,600	5,100
20	9,800	9,300	7,800	5,200	5,600	2,800	1,600	2,200	7,700
50	15,300	14,300	12,100	7,700	8,500	4,000	2,200	3,200	12,500
100	20,800	19,400	16,200	10,100	11,500	5,200	2,600	4,100	17,500
200	27,400	25,700	21,100	12,600	15,300	6,600	3,100	5,100	23,800
500	37,800	35,900	28,400	16,200	21,600	8,700			34,300
800	43,800	42,000	32,500	17,900	25,500				40,500
1,000	46,700	45,100	34,400	18,700	27,500				43,700
1,500	52,100	51,000	37,900	20,100	31,400				49,800
2,000	56,000	55,300	40,400	20,900	34,400				54,200
5,000	68,300	70,000	47,500						69,200

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES OF PERSONS

Estimate ('000)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACTAustralia	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
5	91.1	89.1	72.7	50.3	55.0	28.8	19.1	23.7	67.1
10	67.8	65.0	54.1	36.8	39.4	20.1	12.6	16.4	51.5
20	49.1	46.4	39.0	25.9	27.8	13.8	8.1	11.1	38.4
50	30.7	28.7	24.1	15.5	17.0	8.0	4.3	6.4	25.0
100	20.8	19.4	16.2	10.1	11.5	5.2	2.6	4.1	17.5
200	13.7	12.8	10.5	6.3	7.6	3.3	1.5	2.5	11.9
500	7.6	7.2	5.7	3.2	4.3	1.7			6.9
800	5.5	5.3	4.1	2.2	3.2				5.1
1,000	4.7	4.5	3.4	1.9	2.8				4.4
1,500	3.5	3.4	2.5	1.3	2.1				3.3
2,000	2.8	2.8	2.0	1.0	1.7				2.7

TECHNICAL NOTE 2 REPROCESSING OF 1995 DATA

INTRODUCTION

1 The 1995 Survey of Voluntary Work was conducted as a supplementary to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). Trained interviewers visited each randomly selected household and interviewed a responsible adult member of that household. This person was asked to answer questions on their own behalf and for all other household members who satisfied the scope and coverage inclusion criteria. The lead-in to the supplementary topic on voluntary work required the respondent to identify any household member who had done any unpaid voluntary work in the previous 12 months. A personal interview with all persons so identified was then arranged.

2 The 2000 Survey of Voluntary Work was conducted as part of the Population Survey Monitor (PSM). Like the MPS, the PSM relies on trained interviewers visiting randomly selected households. However, in the PSM, one member of the household is randomly selected for personal interview.

3 As the first results of the 2000 Survey of Voluntary Work became available there appeared to be a very large and unexpected increase in the volunteer rate, from 19% of the population aged 15 years and over in 1995 to around 30% of the population aged 18 years and over in 2000. Excluding the 15-17 year olds from the 1995 data had little effect, increasing the volunteer rate to 19.4%. The discrepancy triggered an investigation of the effect of the changed methodology.

OUTCOMES

4 Despite the difference in the volunteer rate, results of both surveys in terms of the characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers were similar. This suggested the possibility of some form of systematic undercount of volunteers in 1995, or an overcount in 2000. Based on results from the International Social Science Survey/Australia (Icssa), which recorded volunteer rates of 27% in 1995 and 33% in 1999, the former proposition was deemed the more likely.

5 The search for a possible source of undercount in the 1995 survey focussed on the methodology, which relied on one person in the household to identify all members of the household who undertook voluntary work. Where people had self-identified as volunteers, the volunteer rate was 27% while for those who been identified by another household member, the volunteer rate was 5.5%; a ratio of about 5:1. This large discrepancy suggests that in general, people are unaware of the volunteer activities of other household members. The ratio varied between different age groups and relationships, being lowest for the 35-44 years age group and for parents with dependants, and highest for the 18-24 years age group and relatives other than partners or children. This variation accords with the premise that people are more likely to know about the activities of others if they have a close personal relationship.

6 A decision to reprocess the 1995 survey, using only those records where a full personal interview was conducted, was taken in the belief that this would make the results of the two surveys more closely comparable. However, the resulting sample is no longer strictly random. It is not possible to say with certainty that the sample is unbiased but the reprocessed data are likely to contain less bias than the original.

REPROCESSING

7 Using only records where a full personal interview was obtained reduced the sample size from 54,500 to 34,300, with a corresponding increase in standard errors. Standard errors for the reprocessed estimates presented in this publication are available on request.

8 The sample records were reweighted by adjusting the initial selection weights to take into account the fact that only responses from people who provided a full personal interview were being used. A calibration process was then used to weight the data up to known population totals at the following levels: state, part of state (metropolitan/ex-metropolitan), sex, ten-year age groups and labour force status, along with some cross-classifications of these categories. The calibration process ensured that the re-weighted data would be representative of the population for the variables that were used in the calibration. Any differences in volunteer characteristics between people who identified themselves as volunteers and those identified by another household member will thus be adjusted for if such differences were due to differences in the calibration variables. However, there may be differences which were not accounted for by the calibration. The reprocessed estimates should therefore be used with some caution.

COMPARISON OF 1995 ORIGINAL AND REPROCESSED ESTIMATES

9 Overall, reprocessing resulted in an increase in the number of volunteers aged 15 years and over, from 2.6 million to 3.3 million, in the volunteer rate from 19.0% to 23.9%, and in the number of hours from 434 million to 521 million.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, ORIGINAL AND REPROCESSED, 1995

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Reprocessed			Reprocessed			Reprocessed		
	Original '000	Estimate '000	SE '000	Original '000	Estimate '000	SE '000	Original '000	Estimate '000	SE '000
Age (years)									
15-24	127.8	246.3	12.9	171.1	262.0	16.6	298.9	508.3	21.2
25-34	188.7	260.3	13.5	267.8	311.4	10.5	456.5	571.7	18.2
35-44	320.9	404.1	16.3	423.2	458.9	9.8	744.0	863.0	17.5
45-54	236.6	331.6	13.6	261.9	283.3	9.9	498.6	614.9	18.8
55-64	129.0	176.0	9.4	164.2	180.4	7.3	293.2	356.4	10.6
65 and over	140.0	169.8	9.6	208.4	237.1	8.8	348.3	406.8	15.4
Labour force status									
Employed full-time	769.1	1,041.0	28.5	365.6	391.5	13.2	1 134.7	1 432.5	32.3
Employed part-time	107.3	183.5	10.1	462.5	571.6	17.4	569.8	755.2	20.2
Unemployed	46.1	59.6	6.0	58.7	64.8	6.4	104.8	124.4	8.9
Not in the labour force	220.3	303.9	10.8	609.9	705.2	17.1	830.2	1 009.1	23.5
Total	1,142.9	1,588.0	33.8	1,496.6	1,733.1	30.8	2,639.5	3,321.1	51.8

VOLUNTEER RATE, ORIGINAL AND REPROCESSED, 1995

	Males	Females	Persons
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	Reprocessed			Reprocessed			Reprocessed		
	Original	Estimate	SE	Original	Estimate	SE	Original	Estimate	SE
	%	% no.		%	% no.		%	% no.	
Age (years)									
15-24	9.4	18.2	1.0	13.0	20.0	1.3	11.2	19.1	0.8
25-34	13.6	18.7	1.0	19.0	22.1	0.7	16.3	20.4	0.6
35-44	23.8	29.9	1.2	30.9	33.5	0.7	27.4	31.7	0.6
45-54	21.0	29.5	1.2	24.0	26.0	0.9	22.5	27.7	0.8
55-64	17.1	23.4	1.2	22.1	24.3	1.0	19.6	23.8	0.7
65 and over	15.7	19.0	1.1	18.9	21.5	0.8	17.4	20.4	0.8
Labour force status									
Employed full-time	18.4	25.5	0.7	17.9	21.0	0.7	18.3	24.1	0.6
Employed part-time	20.7	30.0	1.4	29.6	33.0	1.0	27.4	32.2	0.8
Unemployed	10.5	13.5	1.4	20.8	23.0	2.3	14.5	17.2	1.2
Not in the labour force	12.7	17.5	0.6	19.3	22.4	0.5	17.0	20.7	0.5
Total	16.7	23.1	0.5	21.3	24.6	0.4	19.0	23.9	0.4

ANNUAL HOURS OF VOLUNTARY WORK, ORIGINAL AND REPROCESSED, 1995

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Reprocessed			Reprocessed			Reprocessed		
	Original	Estimate	SE	Original	Estimate	SE	Original	Estimate	SE
	m.	m.	m.	m.	m.	m.	m.	m.	
Age (years)									
15-24	16.3	31.1	3.5	18.6	29.3	3.2	34.9	60.4	5.0
25-34	26.4	35.0	3.8	35.2	38.2	2.5	61.6	73.2	4.9
35-44	47.6	59.7	4.1	61.0	63.3	3.1	108.7	123.0	5.1
45-54	40.7	53.6	3.5	46.9	47.1	2.7	87.6	100.7	4.9
55-64	26.8	34.8	3.7	36.6	39.4	4.0	63.4	74.2	5.5
65 and over	29.8	35.8	3.7	47.9	53.9	3.5	77.7	89.7	5.5
Labour force status									
Employed full-time	108.3	145.3	6.7	50.3	51.7	3.1	158.6	197.0	7.6
Employed part-time	18.3	30.1	3.4	62.7	71.4	3.9	81.0	101.6	6.0
Unemployed	11.7	11.9	2.2	8.9	9.3	1.4	20.6	21.2	2.4
Not in the labour force	49.3	62.6	5.7	124.4	138.8	6.7	173.7	201.4	9.9
Total	187.6	249.9	9.5	246.3	271.2	8.7	433.9	521.2	14.8

GLOSSARY

Age

The age of persons on their last birthday.

Current reasons for being a volunteer

Current reasons for being a volunteer were recorded for each volunteer. These do not

necessarily relate to any specific organisation or reference period.

Dependent children

All family members under 15 years of age and dependent students.

Dependent student

In couple or one parent families, sons or daughters aged 15-19 years attending school or aged 15-24 years attending a tertiary educational institution full-time, except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents.

Donations

A voluntary transfer of funds made in the preceding 12 months by a person, on an individual not a business basis. The donor should not have received any benefit in return. Excludes purchases of goods and raffle tickets but includes door-knocks and sponsoring walkathons etc.

Donation rate

For any group, the donation rate is the number of people in that group who made donations expressed as a percentage of the total population in the same group.

Expenses

Volunteers were asked for any expenses related to their voluntary work in the last 12 months. They were also asked whether reimbursement was available for expenses they had, irrespective of whether the volunteer chose to accept this reimbursement or not. Reimbursement could be either full or partial.

How first became involved in voluntary work

This item relates to the practical means by which the respondent first became involved in voluntary work, as opposed to their motivation. It was only collected for those who first became involved in voluntary work 10 years ago or less.

Length of time since first volunteered

This item refers to the length of time since the respondent first commenced voluntary work of any kind for any organisation, even a one-off activity such as participating in a door-knock. Voluntary work done overseas is excluded.

Median hours of voluntary work

For any group of volunteers, the median hours of voluntary work is the number of hours such that half the volunteers in the group worked less than that number, and half worked more than that number.

Metropolitan/Ex-metropolitan

Metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical divisions and all of the Australian Capital Territory. Ex-metropolitan is the balance of the State/Territory.

Organisation or group

An organisation or group is any body with a formal structure. It may be as large as a national charity or as small as a local book club. Purely ad hoc, informal and temporary gatherings of people do not constitute an organisation.

Type of organisation

Each organisation or group for which a volunteer worked, up to a maximum of three organisations, was coded to one of the categories below. When a volunteer worked for more than three organisations in the preceding 12 months, the type of organisation was collected only for the three organisations for which the volunteer worked the most hours. The volunteer may have worked for more than one organisation of the same type and therefore may be counted up to three times in the same type of organisation.

Some categories include multiple descriptions (eg Law/justice/political). However, an organisation did not need to fall into all of these descriptions to be coded to the corresponding category. If an organisation fell into more than one category, it was coded according to the primary focus of the organisation.

If the organisation was a subsidiary of a larger body, the organisational group was based on the subsidiary group, not the umbrella organisation. Subsidiary organisations have their own management committee and exist as a separate organisation or entity. For example, a church netball club is a separate entity from the church.

The categories are:

- Arts/culture

This category refers to the production of the arts ie providing a service for others. Examples of arts/culture organisations include libraries, museums and galleries, historical associations, festivals. Small hobby and interest groups associated with craft, art and literature would be included under recreation, as they are primarily for the enjoyment/consumption of members and not for providing a service.

- Business/professional/union

Organisations promoting, regulating and safeguarding business, professional and labour interests, including industry standards.

- Community/welfare

Organisations and institutions providing human and social services to the general community and specific target population groups. Included are organisations whose work is for the wider social benefit of the general community without the provision of direct services, such as Apex and Rotary. Other organisations included cover those giving material assistance, personal care and advice, such as Lifeline, the Smith Family, Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, Legacy, Royal Blind Societies, Wesley Mission, Meals on Wheels. Further examples include ethnic welfare groups, marriage guidance, information and referral services, community transport, neighbourhood centres, accommodation referral and advice, homes and shelters.

- Education/training/youth development

Organisations and activities administering, providing, promoting, conducting, supporting and servicing education, training and youth development.

- Emergency services

Refers to those emergency services involved in search and rescue and disaster relief (not including emergency medical services). While emergency rescue may involve medical

attention the overall aim is search and rescue. Similarly, while disaster relief can include a range of services (material assistance, accommodation, counselling), the broad focus of the organisation is disaster relief. Included are Red Cross Disaster Recovery Services and Salvation Army Disaster Services. First aid is included under health, not emergency services.

- Environmental/animal welfare

Organisations promoting and providing services in environmental conservation, pollution control and prevention, environmental education, and health and animal protection.

- Foreign/international

This refers to the focus of the organisation's activity rather than its origins. Such an organisation promotes greater inter-cultural understanding between people of different countries and historical backgrounds, may provide relief during emergencies, or promote development and welfare abroad eg exchange/friendship/cultural programs, development assistance associations, international disaster and relief organisations, international human rights and peace organisations.

- Health

Organisations engaged in health related activities providing health care, both general and specialised services, medical research foundations and emergency health services, administration of health care services and health support services. Examples include specific health conditions support groups, hospitals and nursing homes, regional health services, Alcoholics Anonymous, eating disorder groups, Family Planning Associations, Royal Flying Doctor Services.

- Law/justice/political

Organisations and groups that work to protect and promote civil and other rights, or advocate the social and political interests of general or special constituencies, offer legal services and promote public safety (related to the law rather than emergency services). For example, Australian Consumers Association, the Civil Justice Research Centre, peak organisations and lobby groups such as Councils of Social Service and Ethnic Communities Council.

- Religious

Organisations promoting religious beliefs as their primary focus, administering religious services and rituals. Includes churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, shrines, seminaries, monasteries and religious institutions.

- Sport/recreation

Organisations in general and specialised fields of sport, recreation and leisure; sports clubs and facilities; indoor and outdoor recreational facilities; racing and gambling; social, leisure and hobby clubs; zoological, botanical, recreational parks and gardens; theme and amusement parks. Included are hobby and general interest groups such as bird watchers' groups, book clubs, embroiderers' guilds, gardening clubs etc.

- Other

Organisations not elsewhere classified. In some tables and graphs, some of the above organisational groups may also have been included in this category due to small numbers of responses. This is indicated by a footnote.

Type of voluntary activity

Activities performed in the preceding 12 months were collected for each organisation for which a volunteer worked, up to a maximum of three organisations. Volunteers may have performed multiple activities for each organisation. When a volunteer worked for more than three organisations in the preceding 12 months, activity information was only collected for the three organisations for which the volunteer worked the most hours. The categories are:

- Administration/clerical work/recruitment

Office work, typing and word processing, answering phones, filing, basic bookkeeping. Includes conducting campaigns for recruiting volunteers. Recruiting volunteers for a fundraising program was coded under this category rather than fundraising.

- Befriending/supportive listening/counselling

Includes providing companionship, staffing help lines.

- Coaching/judging/refereeing

Includes training sports teams, adjudicating competitions for agricultural or wine shows, public speaking contests, umpiring sporting contests.

- Fundraising/sales

Includes a range of activities directed predominantly towards assisting organisations to raise money for their own programs or for those of another organisation. Examples include: door knocking, selling buttons on button day, making or selling items on a stall or in a charity shop.

- Management/committee work

Participation in management committees and functions, which involves making decisions about the direction and operation of an organisation. Examples include: sitting on a board, being an office bearer, being a member of the management board of a community welfare organisation, treasurer for the local church, managing a service or program, program planning.

- Performing/media production

Includes producing newsletters, pamphlets and other printed material.

- Personal care/assistance

Includes a wide range of activities such as: providing help with showering/bathing, dressing,

eating, using the toilet and health care activities such as helping to administer medication, or dressing wounds.

- Preparing/serving food

Includes food and drink preparation, serving meals and cleaning up. Work for Meals on Wheels was usually coded to both preparing/serving food and transporting people/goods.

- Repairing/maintenance/gardening

Includes a wide range of activities such as: repairing household appliances, painting, making furnishings, checking the state of repair of the dwelling, providing help with lawns, clearing up grounds, rubbish removal, cleaning out garages, gutters.

- Teaching/instruction

Includes classroom assistance given by people other than qualified teachers eg parents.

- Transporting people/goods

See Preparing/serving food.

- Other

Activities not classified elsewhere. In some tables and graphs, some of the above activities may also have been included in this category due to small numbers of responses. This is indicated by a footnote.

Volunteer

For the purposes of this survey, a volunteer is someone who willingly gave unpaid help, in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group. The reference period was the 12 months prior to the survey.

People who did voluntary work overseas, or whose only voluntary work was for the Sydney 2000 Olympic or Paralympic Games have been excluded from the survey estimates.

The reimbursement of expenses in full or part (eg token payments) or small gifts (eg sports club T-shirts or caps) was not regarded as payment of salary, and people who received these were still included as voluntary workers. However, people who received payment in kind for the work they did (eg receiving farm produce as payment for work done on a farm, rather than cash) were not included as volunteers.

Volunteer activity rate

For any group, the aggregate number of activities performed for organisations by that group expressed as a percentage of total volunteers in that group.

Volunteer involvements

For each volunteer, the number of organisations worked for.

Volunteer involvement rate

For any group, the aggregate number of organisations worked for by that group expressed as a percentage of total volunteers in that group.

Volunteer rate

For any group, the volunteer rate is the number of volunteers in that group expressed as a percentage of the total population in the same group.

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