



## WEBSITE CONTENT

### 1. Involving Volunteers

Volunteers are likely to be of enormous value to your workplace. Their commitment, enthusiasm, wide range of skills, experiences and interests ensures that they make a worthwhile and positive contribution to any organisation in which they are involved.

An Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001) survey found 4.4 million people in Australia contributed 704.1 million hours of voluntary work and you'll find volunteers contributing in all areas of life.

In general, volunteers are committed and enthusiastic people with a wide variety of skills who give their time and special talents to work environments, mostly to non-profit volunteer involving organisations (VIOs).

Volunteers are able to assist your organisation with tasks that support paid staff on projects, events or special community centred initiatives. They may also be able to offer their specialised skills and knowledge to projects requiring expert skills.

#### Who can involve volunteers?

"Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain". Volunteers contribute their time for no commercial gain. Only VIOs which are **not-for-profit organisations and/or charities** are able to engage volunteers in designated volunteer positions.

These types of VIOs cover a wide range of activities and interests, such as community organisations, health, welfare, sports, recreation, conservation, emergency services, environment, arts and education sectors as well as special public events involvement.

Additionally, local government bodies and councils run various community service programs that utilise volunteers, such as in day centres for the elderly, youth centres, assisting in children's events in libraries and bush regeneration.

Corporations and for - profit companies *cannot* involve volunteers from outside their organisation. They *can* involve their own employees in volunteering projects or programs for community benefit. This is commonly referred to as 'Corporate Volunteering' or 'Employee Volunteering'. VIOs are willing, ready and able to engage with corporations and in turn, corporations can benefit greatly from this type of volunteer contribution. The Centre for Volunteering through its Volunteer Referral Service (VRS) helps match corporate volunteers with VIOs and volunteer opportunities. [Find out more about Corporate Volunteering Programs](#)

The Centre for Volunteering provides the following Volunteer Services:



- Comprehensive information about organisations and volunteering,
- Offers advice on setting up volunteer programs and dealing with volunteering issues,
- Assistance developing job descriptions and lodging them with the VRS to find volunteers matching the organisation's needs,
- Peak body services such as advice to members on insurance, risk and child protection matters to name a few, and most importantly
- The ability to network with other volunteer involving organisations.

For further information and assistance, please contact the **Volunteer Referral Service** on **02 9261 3600**.

The [School of Volunteer Management](#), a Registered Training Organisation, offers short and long, accredited and non-accredited training in volunteer management and the management of volunteering involving organisations. Members receive special rates and exclusive access to content in relation to volunteer management.