



STATE OF VOLUNTEERING IN TASMANIA REPORT 2014

Highlights

- The socio-economic and cultural value of volunteering to Tasmania in 2014 is conservatively estimated to be **\$4.9 billion**. This figure is much greater than previous estimates based on price or economic impact alone. However, it is likely to be a significant underestimate given the limitations of the available data and forensic techniques.
- Treated as a sector in its own right, **volunteering is Tasmania's largest industry** by employment.
- **Four out of five** Tasmanians volunteered in 2014, donating a total of 7.1 million hours.
- People between 65 and 74 years of age volunteer, on average, **22.8 hours per month** - the rest participate at the average rate of **12.5 hours** per month.
- For **every dollar** invested in volunteering, **at least \$4 in benefits** are returned to the community.
- Individuals significantly **self-finance** their volunteering activity; out-spending VIOs at a rate of **2:1**.
- Tasmanian employers enjoy **\$1.2 billion of productivity benefit** as a result of their employees volunteering.
- In the last 12 months **over 4,000 tourists** visited Tasmania for the purpose of volunteering. Their average stay of **13.9 nights** was significantly higher than the average tourist stay of **8.9 nights**.
- The people of Tasmania identified a personal well-being benefit of **\$651.4 million** from volunteering in 2014.
- Only **10.1 per cent** of volunteers are reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses.
- There are approximately **2,000** volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) in Tasmania across the not-for-profit, government and private sectors.
- Tasmanians want to volunteer **more**.
- If support was offered to increase participation in volunteering by 1% per year, we would add an average of **\$70.6 million per year** in value to the Tasmanian community.
- If volunteering received economic investment relative to its size as an industry, and comparative to other industries in Tasmania, the return in benefits to the Tasmanian community and economy would **far exceed** the investment.
- This study is the **first known** valuation of volunteering as an economic and cultural ecosystem within a defined region.