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.

Copies of the full report and associated resources can be found at [www.volunteeringtas.org.au](http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au)
For further enquiries please contact Volunteering Tasmania on 1800 677 895