

**volunteer.  
do what you love.**



29 March 2016

Standing Committee on Communication and the Arts  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Inquiry into broadcasting, online content and live production to rural and regional Australia**

Volunteering Tasmania (VT) is the Peak body for volunteerism in Tasmania. We make a positive impact on volunteering, and as a result, we help to improve and sustain our wonderful community and the people within it. We believe that all members of our community equally deserve the right to experience the benefits of volunteering, regardless of their background.

We welcome the opportunity to provide comment on the Inquiry into broadcasting, online content and live production to rural and regional Australia. VT's organisational focus and mission is to create an environment that promotes and sustains effective volunteerism. We would like to take this opportunity, therefore to submit a perspective of these funding decisions from the volunteering sector.

Volunteering and the Arts are intrinsically linked. Many of our artistic institutions rely on the involvement of volunteers. In Australia 18.5 million hours are donated with 219, 000 Australian's (3.8 per cent of volunteers) donating their time in the Arts and Heritage sector (ABS, General Social Survey 2015).

In Tasmania, we know that volunteers are heavily involved in our Arts organisations and are vital to the future of live production in our State. As the Peak body for volunteering, we see volunteers involved in local Repertory Theatre, and giving time in our local festivals and events. Volunteers are vital to this industry. Without their contribution, Tasmanian's would not be able to enjoy many of our much loved community events.

Volunteering in the Arts brings about both tangible (skills, workplace experience, economic benefits) and intangible (social inclusion, sense of community) rewards for individuals and for our community. The value of this cannot be underestimated.

**[www.volunteeringtas.org.au](http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au)**

SOUTH (03) 6231 5550 | 95–97 Campbell Street Hobart TAS 7000 | [admin@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:admin@volunteeringtas.org.au)  
NORTH (03) 6331 1567 | 72 Tamar Street Launceston TAS 7250 | [launceston@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:launceston@volunteeringtas.org.au)  
NORTH WEST (03) 6432 4335 | 36 Strahan Street Burnie TAS 7325 | [burnie@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:burnie@volunteeringtas.org.au)



**volunteer.  
do what you love.**



The value of volunteering, however, is not simply about generating warm and fuzzy feelings - although these are indeed valuable in themselves. Its value is also in generating opportunities, delivering key services, and contributing to prosperity. In Tasmania alone, our research has shown that for every dollar invested in volunteering, \$4 in benefits are returned to the community (State of Volunteering Report 2014).

Volunteering is therefore not just essential to the welfare and wellbeing of Tasmanians. It is also a key driver of economic growth. Our research places volunteering front and centre as Tasmania's largest industry - contributing nearly 5 billion dollars in benefits to the Tasmanian community (State of Volunteering Report 2014). Volunteering influences economic activity across a range of sectors.

Whilst the economic, social and cultural benefits of volunteering are immense, it is important to recognise that the volunteers working in the arts sector are not a free and unlimited resource. The sum of the costs to manage volunteers in Tasmania is estimated to be \$138.8 million (State of Volunteering Report 2014). To deliver services, Volunteer Involving Organisations need to invest in volunteering to recruit and retain suitable volunteers. This requires supervision, training and equipment. It is crucial that Volunteer Involving Organisations are resourced appropriately to achieve this.

VT's focus as the Peak body for volunteering in Tasmania is to consider how Volunteer Involving Organisations in this sector can best be supported to ensure ongoing viability of the arts industry. The role in recruiting and retaining volunteers cannot be underestimated. Retention strategies that are effective are required in order to cope with changing population needs; volunteer tourists and a growing demand for live artistic productions across the state. This is particularly important for rural and regional areas of Tasmania who face their own unique challenges in sustaining a vibrant volunteer workforce. Strategic investment in this area is needed to enable ongoing artistic and economic growth.

Volunteer Involving Organisations need to be able continue to support and retain volunteering at its present rate. VT recommends that the Committee give consideration to the needs of volunteer management and coordination in the arts industry. Commitment to this practices is vital for continued growth of events, festivals and community activities in Tasmania. We know that without support for the volunteers, many Volunteer Involving Organisations in this sector would not be able to sustain their work.

[www.volunteeringtas.org.au](http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au)

SOUTH (03) 6231 5550 | 95-97 Campbell Street Hobart TAS 7000 | [admin@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:admin@volunteeringtas.org.au)

NORTH (03) 6331 1567 | 72 Tamar Street Launceston TAS 7250 | [launceston@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:launceston@volunteeringtas.org.au)

NORTH WEST (03) 6432 4335 | 36 Strahan Street Burnie TAS 7325 | [burnie@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:burnie@volunteeringtas.org.au)

volunteer.  
do what you love.



Ongoing strategic investment is vital to assisting arts organisations create jobs and engage Tasmanians with our arts and culture. This would form a vital contribution to the future of live production in Tasmania – one that our research shows offers a sound return on investment and an opportunity to drive economic and cultural prosperity.

I welcome the opportunity to continued discussion on the role of volunteering in the arts. Please contact me at [adriennep@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:adriennep@volunteeringtas.org.au) or on (03) 6231 5550 if you have any further questions or comments.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adrienne Picone'.

Adrienne Picone

CEO, Volunteering Tasmania

[www.volunteeringtas.org.au](http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au)

SOUTH (03) 6231 5550 | 95–97 Campbell Street Hobart TAS 7000 | [admin@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:admin@volunteeringtas.org.au)  
NORTH (03) 6331 1567 | 72 Tamar Street Launceston TAS 7250 | [launceston@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:launceston@volunteeringtas.org.au)  
NORTH WEST (03) 6432 4335 | 36 Strahan Street Burnie TAS 7325 | [burnie@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:burnie@volunteeringtas.org.au)