

REPORT



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Budget Priority Statement

December 2016

Volunteering Tasmania

Department of Education

About Volunteering Tasmania

Volunteering Tasmania is Tasmania's Peak body for volunteering. We:

- Deliver volunteer management services to organisations who involve volunteers;
- Assist the Tasmanian community who wish to volunteer their knowledge, skills and time; and
- Offer advocacy and social policy development services.

Volunteering Tasmania is regarded as the single authoritative volunteering voice in Tasmania. We provide strategic advice and leadership as Tasmania's Peak volunteering body. Volunteering Tasmania's continued presence is essential to the sustainability of volunteering and to act as an advocate for the industry.

For organisations seeking volunteers, Volunteering Tasmania provides:

- Practical services to Managers of Volunteers so they can deliver effective and sustainable programs;
- Skills development for Managers of Volunteers to ensure the best outcomes for the organisation as well as the volunteers;
- Assistance to organisations to find the right volunteers through our web portal 'Volunteer Connect';
- Best practice insights on the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement which are supported by research to deliver the best outcomes; and
- Information on changing trends in volunteering worldwide.

For volunteers and potential volunteers, Volunteering Tasmania encourages and facilitates their active participation in the Tasmanian community and guides them into roles that are a good fit for them. We work to ensure the volunteer experience is a quality one and that they keep participating as volunteers.

With offices in Hobart and Launceston, Volunteering Tasmania works with a wide cross section of the community.

Embedding the Value of Volunteering in Tasmanian Schools

One of Volunteering Tasmania's priorities is to introduce volunteering into Tasmanian schools. There is strong evidence around the benefits of volunteering for young people. Volunteering supports much of the policy framework within schools. The *Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, for example, underpins the policy framework for the Australian Schools Curriculum.¹ These educational goals identify that young people should become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.² Volunteering complements these goals.

Volunteering gives opportunities for individuals to find valuable work skills, build networks, or re-engage in education and training opportunities. Volunteering can be a potential pathway to employment and a way of developing 'work like' skills and networks in young people. Increasing evidence shows the linkages between volunteering and opportunities for skill development – and ultimately finding paid employment.

Volunteering Tasmania believes there are opportunities to get students involved in civic participation and volunteering. Research shows us that children whose parents are engaged in volunteering are more likely to be volunteers. If there is an absence of these role models, young people are less likely to volunteer. Recent analysis of volunteering in Australia also shows that if adolescents begin volunteering, they are likely to continue this behaviour into adulthood.³ A range of positive educational outcomes are highlighted in existing research.⁴

Rationale

If we are serious about engaging young people in volunteering, and sustaining volunteer participation in our communities, we need to provide greater awareness and access to

¹ MCEETYA, "Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians", (December 2008) http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/resources/National_Declaration_on_the_Educational_Goals_for_Young_Australians.pdf (accessed 1 November 2015)

² Australian Education Curriculum at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/> (accessed 1 November 2015)

³ A. Aydinli Arzu et al, "Implicit and explicit prosocial motivation as antecedents of volunteering: The moderating role of parenthood." *Personality and Individual Differences* 74 (2015): 127-132; M. Whitaker, and K. Hoover-Dempsey. "School influences on parents' role beliefs." *The Elementary School Journal* 114, no. 1 (2013): 73-99.

⁴ M. J. Bundick "The benefits of reflecting on and discussing purpose in life in emerging adulthood. *New directions for youth development*" (2011): 89–103; Z. Cemalcilar, "Understanding individual characteristics of adolescents who volunteer. *Personality and Individual Differences*" (2009):432–436; J. L. Mahoney and A.E. Vest, "The over scheduling hypothesis revisited: Intensity of organised activity participation during adolescence and young adult outcomes" *Journal of Research on Adolescence.*, 22 (2012):409–418

volunteering through schools.⁵ Volunteering gives opportunities for students to support their local community whilst simultaneously giving them opportunities to prepare for their future career.

Volunteering Tasmania's previous work through the "Volunteering in Schools" pilot program (2010) linked high school students to volunteering opportunities in their local communities. Outcomes of this project were:

- Developing meaningful student volunteer experiences
- Supporting Volunteer Involving Organisations to engage with young people as volunteers
- Enabling Volunteer Involving Organisations to maintain youth engagement after the cessation of the project;
- Promoting social and employment-related development for young people;
- Encouraging ongoing involvement in volunteering.

Program evaluation showed that students developed immensely by volunteering - both in building relationships in the community and in developing employment skills and career options. Our experience shows that there is a need to grow interest in volunteering through our education system. There is an opportunity for schools to make meaningful learning opportunities, whilst developing aptitude and awareness for giving in the community.⁶

Cost: \$84, 000 over 3 years

Volunteering Tasmania proposes to run a series of Introduction to Volunteering sessions in participating schools. State-wide sessions would give information on the variety of volunteering roles available and the benefits of volunteering. The cost for Introduction to Volunteering training is \$310 per workshop, which caters to small groups' attendance. Volunteering Tasmania recommends an investment of \$28,000 per annum to deliver Introduction to Volunteering training across the State to approximately 50 schools.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends 2009, Education and Training Data Cube*, ABS Cat. No. 4102.0 at <http://www.abs.gov.au/socialtrends> (accessed 1 November 2015)

⁶ Tasmanian Liberals, "Policy" at <https://www.tas.liberal.org.au/policy> (accessed 1 November 2015); Volunteering ACT "Promoting Youth Engagement and Wellbeing through Student Volunteer Programs in ACT Schools" at <http://www.volunteeringact.org.au/volunteering/publications> (accessed 1 November 2015); Volunteering Tasmania "Schools Project Pilot Program Evaluation Report" ; UVM, "How Does Volunteering Benefit High School Students?", *The UB* (March 2010) at <http://www.uvm.edu/upbound/news/2010/mar2010.pdf> (Accessed 1 November 2015)