

**volunteer.
do what you love.**



The value of lifelong learning

Volunteering Tasmania 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. Our focus is creating an environment that promotes and sustains effective volunteerism.

Volunteering Tasmania is pleased to give feedback on LINC Tasmania's discussion paper on the value of lifelong learning. We see a number of opportunities for links to be made around the volunteering opportunities in adult and lifelong learning.

At Volunteering Tasmania we believe that Tasmanians value lifelong learning. We believe this is well demonstrated through the high rates of volunteering participation from older Tasmanians. In addition to classroom adult education programs, volunteering also offers opportunities for Tasmanians to gain new skills and experiences, whilst simultaneously providing benefit to their communities.

At Volunteering Tasmania we believe that all Tasmanians should have the opportunity to participate fully in their community. Volunteering is essential to meeting these goals of participation. Volunteering Tasmania is supportive of the aims of lifelong learning and believes there are strong alignments between this and the power of volunteering.

Growing volunteering rates is also complementary to LINC Tasmania's goals of:

- a) Staying healthy and active as we age
- b) Participating more effectively in community life
- c) Being supported by a range of networks in our community – including volunteers

We believe that if we grow participation in our communities we will achieve the goal of a vibrant, inclusive and skilled Tasmania.

Opportunities for participation and collaboration

We believe volunteering offers a unique way for community members to participate effectively in community life, and remain connected in their community as they age.

www.volunteeringtas.org.au

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To achieve this, Volunteering Tasmania would support greater collaboration with LINC Tasmania to grow more pathways into volunteering.

Volunteering offers an excellent opportunity for individuals to find valuable work skills and networks, or re-engage in education and training opportunities. Growing participation in communities can be important in and on itself. However research also highlights the importance of volunteering in developing key skills and opportunities including:

- a) Employment skills
- b) Exploring potential career options
- c) Gaining references and referees
- d) Building networks in the local community

There is also a growing evidence base demonstrating the importance of volunteering to developing employment based skills. Through volunteering, individuals can access a variety of practical, tangible learnings that are vital to future employability:

- a) Being an effective member of a team
- b) Working with people of different ages and backgrounds
- c) Learning to try new tasks
- d) Growing practical skills and knowledge
- e) Growing confidence and self esteem
- f) Linking to job networks and other volunteering pathways

Through greater collaboration with LINC Tasmania, Volunteering Tasmania would be supportive of helping more people understand the benefits of volunteering. Given the high presence and visibility of LINC Tasmania in our community, we believe that together we could reduce barriers to volunteering and better help individuals find a volunteer opportunity.

If we can support community members become more engaged in volunteering we will be able to see a greater culture of civic participation in Tasmania.

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If you would like to discuss these opportunities in more detail please contact me on (03) 6231 5550 or at alisonl@volunteeringtas.org.au

Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alison Lai'.

Alison Lai

Chief Executive Officer

Volunteering Tasmania

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