

Involving Tasmanian School Students as Volunteers - October 2017

Encouraging Tasmanians to get involved in volunteering can start at any age and doesn't need to wait until young people leave school.

Involving Tasmanian school students as volunteers has many benefits including offering young Tasmanians insight into the enjoyment of volunteering and providing a way for young people to develop employability skills. It also gives organisations the opportunity to share their purpose and passion with students and their families.

However, before seeking to involve Tasmanian school students, Volunteer Involving Organisations need to consider the following information.

Can Tasmanian school students volunteer during school hours?

Yes. Whilst it is not a mandatory requirement for Tasmanian State school students to volunteer, through the school (or with the school's involvement) they are often involved in activities and excursions that provide them with opportunities to volunteer with community organisations.

These activities and excursions are called 'work exposure opportunities' and form part of the student's studies around work, work readiness, career and life and align with subjects such as Work Studies, Community Service Learning, Work Readiness, Pathways to Work and Career and Life Planning.

Can a student be absent during school hours to volunteer on their own?

No. Students can only be absent from school during school hours if the activity or excursion forms part of their school endorsed program of learning.

Individual students seeking to volunteer during school hours (that are not endorsed by a school as part of the school's program of learning) will need to request that the Principal consider whether the activity is a recognised learning activity, and if the student can be authorised to be absent. More information on authorised reasons for absence from Tasmanian schools is available in the Education Act Fact Sheet [Frequently Asked Questions for Parents](#)

Are all students offered volunteering activities or excursions?

No. Whilst there may be activities and excursions offered to students that include volunteering, some may not.

The My Education curriculum focuses on exposing students to the world of work and this may occur in a range of ways within and outside the classroom. More information on the My Education curriculum can be accessed [here](#).

What sort of volunteering activities or excursions can students undertake?

There are a number of Tasmanian Volunteer Involving Organisations partnering with schools on projects that offer opportunities for classes to volunteer.

For example, Food Connections Clarence has partnered with Rokeby High School and Rose Bay High School to provide volunteering opportunities for students. Both schools are located in southern Tasmania, and through this partnership students get exposure to a range of community organisations including Food Bank Tasmania, Second Bite Tasmania and local neighbourhood centres.

Where can I get further information?

Volunteer Involving Organisations that are interested in partnering with schools on a project are encouraged to make direct contact with the schools in their community.

For more information on age-appropriate volunteering roles take a look at our [Young People and Legal Issues](#) Fact Sheet.