

In Focus: Tasmanian volunteer ambulance officers

Volunteering Tasmania is working with Ambulance Tasmania to better understand the key issues and challenges volunteers face when responding to emergency medical situations across Tasmania.

Volunteering Tasmania chief executive, Alison Lai says the project will not only provide Ambulance Tasmania with further feedback on their volunteer management practices, but it will also be a valuable opportunity for their volunteers to share their ideas and thoughts.

“We are committed to understanding what can be done to continue improving the experience of volunteers,” Alison said.

“Volunteering Tasmania will use the information we collect through this project to provide recommendations to Ambulance Tasmania that are based on the feedback of their volunteers and also in accordance with the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.”

Volunteering Tasmania is leading this project so that respondents can provide input confidentially and individuals will not be identified in the final report.

“We are encouraging anyone who is currently a volunteer ambulance officer, or has been involved previously, to complete our online survey,” Alison said.

The recommendations from this project will also be used to complement the initiatives outlined in the Liberal Government’s [commitment](#) to invest \$800,000 per year into supporting volunteer ambulance officers.

The Ambulance Tasmania survey will be live until the end of April and can be accessed at www.volunteeringtas.org.au/reseach/ambulancetasproject/

[212 words]

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ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA:

Volunteering Tasmania is the peak body for volunteering in the state, working closely with Volunteer Involving Organisations to promote and support volunteers; and advocating for the volunteering industry to funders and government. Volunteering Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to represent the interests of all Tasmanians involved in volunteering through research, consultation, policy development and community relationships.

ABOUT AMBULANCE TASMANIA:

Ambulance Tasmania works to provide a dynamic emergency health service to the state. The organisation has approx. 400 paid operational staff and has approx. 480 volunteers that are primarily located in rural and regional areas of Tasmania. Recruiting and retaining volunteers is essential for maintaining a world-class emergency service for patients who are not in close proximity to major centres.