

Youth Volunteering A pathway to employability

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There are so many benefits to volunteering, this fact sheet outlines how volunteering can help improve your chances of gaining employment.

How is volunteering a pathway?

Volunteering often provides opportunities to gain experience in the industry or a role that you wish to work in, while adding to your existing education or understanding.



Meet Jack...

Jack had just completed his Disability Support certificate and was having trouble finding employment in this field. He had gone straight to TasTAFE after finishing school, and his only work experience was at a fast food venue on weekends. Jack began volunteering at a Respite Centre, building up his skills and experience, demonstrating his initiative to the staff. When a paid position became available at a Disability Support organisation, his voluntary supervisor encouraged him to apply with her as a referee, and Jack is now working there in his chosen career.

Volunteering assisted Jack in gaining experience in his chosen career path. He was provided with a reference from his volunteer experience and successfully secured the paid position with the organisation.

Meet Sophie...

When Sophie decided it was time for a career change, she had limited experience in an office setting. She had previously worked in the tourism industry, and her only qualifications were unrelated to office work. Sophie began volunteering two days a week in the office of a not-for-profit organisation, and was able to build up her skills and knowledge in this field. When a paid position became available, Sophie was encouraged to apply, and she is now employed at the organisation.

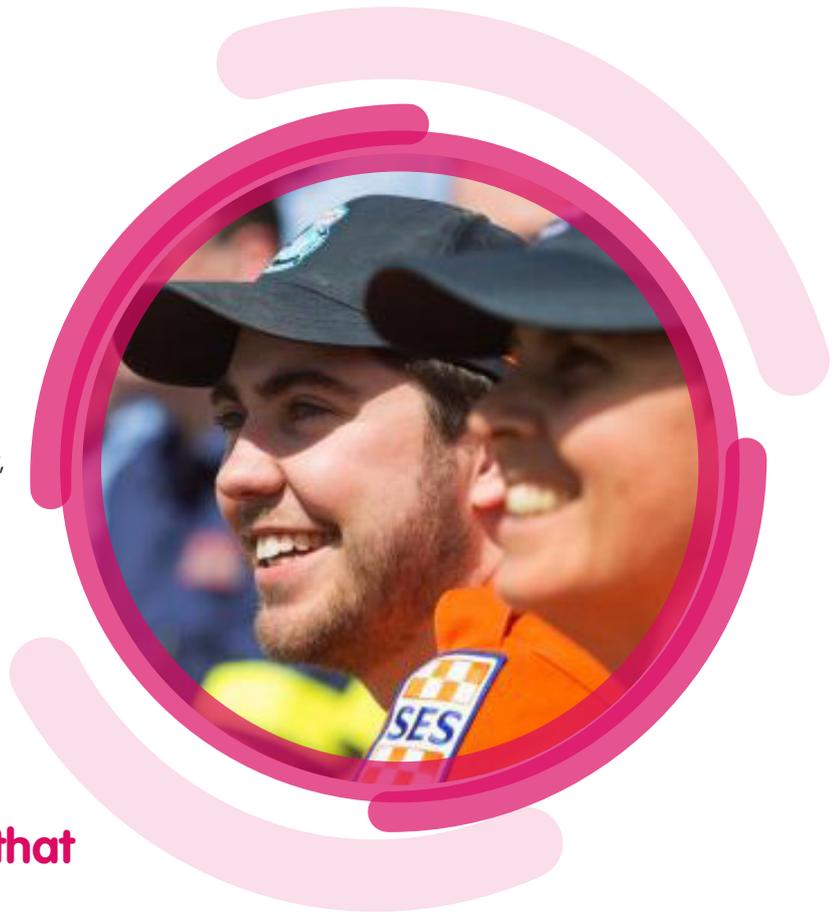
Volunteering assisted Sophie to increase her knowledge of a different field of employment. She was able to learn while volunteering, apply for the administrative position when it became available and included her experiences and volunteer involvement in her resume and during her job interview.

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How does volunteering make you more employable?

Volunteer involvement and experiences can assist employability in the following ways:

- A credible example of work-based experience
- If volunteering at the same organisation for three months or more, it is hard evidence of your reliability, time management and team player skills
- Provides a professional reference when seeking paid employment
- Establishes contacts within the industry
- Increases your work-based skill set and knowledge



How to find volunteering roles that enhance your resume

It is important to find a role that can fit with existing study requirements, and with an organisation that understands your study load, transportation situation and any other life commitments that could impact your availability. The longer you are able to stay volunteering for the one organisation, the better it looks on your resume.

Use Volunteering Role databases such as **Volunteer Connect**, Seek Volunteer or GO Volunteer to identify interests which reflect your career goals, and search for available opportunities. Speak to teachers, career counsellors or industry representative bodies such as **Volunteer Tasmania**, or sector specific bodies such as the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania, to identify additional Volunteer Involving Organisations and review their website for ways to volunteer with them.

Don't be shy about calling them or visiting in person, it proves you are enthusiastic and proactive.

Even if you cannot volunteer in a role that provides directly transferrable work skills for your chosen career, by volunteering with a career-relevant organisation you become familiar with the work culture and workplace terminology, which will help you at an interview when a paid role becomes available.

Spread your net wide when searching for volunteer roles - if you cannot volunteer with the organisation of your dreams, then look for organisations that have linkages to your career path, such as suppliers, customers or peer organisations with the same goals and/or target objectives.

Volunteering Tasmania also offer face to face Referral Services to help you identify roles that will improve your resume – Freecall 1800-677-895 to book an appointment.