



OFFICE FOR THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

The recent federal election brought about the establishment of an Office for the Non-Profit Sector. This office is being established within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). The Minister for Social Inclusion, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, has the responsibility for social inclusion and third sector reform issues.

In addition to this, policy responsibility for volunteering and the administration of a number of volunteering programs will be transferred to Prime Minister and Cabinet. Also, the administration of funding of Volunteer Resource Centres will now be with Prime Minister and Cabinet.

IYV + 10

The UN International Year of Volunteers in 2001 was a remarkable success because it was embraced by the global volunteering community. That enthusiasm helped promote new developments and partnerships in volunteering; it strengthened the status of volunteering; and it helped make IYV a truly worldwide celebration.

The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) in 2001. There are opportunities throughout 2011 to showcase the diversity, breadth and depth of volunteering worldwide, raise the profile of volunteering and mobilize many more volunteers. The 10th anniversary of IYV in 2011 will be a chance to reenergize those efforts

Please let us know how you or your organisation would like to mark and celebrate IYV+10 in 2011. Please respond to mvrc_rae@iinet.net.au by Wednesday 1 December 2010.

Volunteering to 2030 – the challenges, the opportunities

From Volunteering Matters Issue 1, 13 October 2010

Volunteering has never had so many demands on it, while facing so many challenges. The sustainability of volunteering as a social function is the key issue. Can volunteering continue to do what it has always done for our communities?

In response to these challenges Volunteering Victoria has undertaken an intensive process of needs analysis, focussing particularly on the support needs of volunteering-involving organisations (VIOs). We've also considered the needs of volunteering stakeholders including individual volunteers, the community, all levels of government, the not for profit sector and others. We identified three related challenges: responding to drivers of change, capacity development and the future role of volunteering as a social function.

The data – setting the context

But first let's look at some key points from the in-depth analysis of demographic data we have carried out:

- The percentage of volunteering in community/welfare sector declined from 26% in 2000 to 16% in 2006, a 40% fall in direct community service volunteering.
- Overall volunteer median hours declined by 30% 1995-2006 to 56 hours per year.
- Community/welfare volunteer median in 2006 was 37 hours, down from 48 in 2000.

The significance of this data is that it shows the long-term decline of traditional community service volunteering (and the increased focus of volunteering on activities such as sports and recreation).

This raises real doubt about the sustainability of community/welfare volunteer programs that require significant, ongoing time commitment, from volunteers aged 35 to 55.

But the picture for areas of increased participation is not clear. As the 'hard' end of volunteering (direct service) declines we see a decline in volunteering culture. Over time this may lead into volunteering types that seem buoyant now. And other changes impact on those activity types appearing to be doing well.

The drivers of change we need to respond to

1. **Demographic and community attitude changes** – as the data shows, volunteers are busier, need greater flexibility, volunteer for a shorter time and volunteer in increasingly diverse ways than has been traditional.

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2. Increased regulatory- and legislative-based requirements on associations. The policy aim of increasing accountability to stakeholders and extending the protection of workplace law to volunteers is welcome. But it means small under-resourced VIOs are required to implement often complex legislative-based reforms to governance and operational practice with minimal resources. This applies to sports and recreation as well as community/welfare organisations and, given the latter's stronger link with not-for-profits, may impact more on the former.

Government increasingly relies on volunteering to contribute to the social outcomes of its programs without offering support. The recognition of volunteering contributions to funded programs would be even more welcome if there was funding to support the increased capacity required. But often that isn't the case.

Responding to change – capacity development

These three broad drivers of change expose the vulnerability of volunteering: its lack of formal infrastructure and resourcing. Volunteering has been a loosely bound community of interest; an organic, community-driven phenomenon. That's its strength and in this case its weakness.

Volunteering is in effect being called on to act as if it was a service system in the way the not-for-profit sector works. But it can't. Volunteering struggles to innovate, plan far enough ahead to respond to demographic change, or effectively advocate for systemic funding or support. Why? Because it has minimal infrastructure.

The Australian not-for-profit sector earns \$76 billion a year. Volunteering recurrent funding is around \$5 million a year.

Volunteering is being challenged to develop its capacity to be innovative and knowledge-driven in its response to community need. But we need support to do this. We need:

- good data and a clear understanding of the challenges
- a funding program and real support
- a clear agreement with all levels of government as to our role in the community.

Volunteering also needs to ensure it is driven by the aspirations of volunteers in their own communities, not by changing government policy priorities. We aren't a social service system and there's no evidence we want to become one.

The future role of volunteering in the community

We can quantify the challenges that the drivers of change present. But we can't as yet respond effectively. The volunteering community must start to come together to look at how we can build our capacity to innovate and to respond.

Volunteering Victoria will act to meet these challenges through implementing the sector development strategy. But we need all stakeholders to accept the capacity building challenge.

The ultimate challenge is to respond to what we have to – while ensuring we stay what we want to be.

EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY— DECEMBER 5



This day celebrates the efforts of those who have made an important contribution to society by giving their time as volunteers. The United Nations has invited governments and organisations in all countries to undertake and promote activities each year on 5 December to thank the volunteers and to stimulate a greater awareness of their contribution.

This year's IVD is also significant for another reason. It marks the launch of the tenth anniversary of the 2001 International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10), which also coincides with the European Year of Volunteering. IYV+10 will be an opportunity for people all around the world to join a global effort to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism.

Australasian Retreat for Advanced Volunteer Management

The 2011 Australasian Retreat for Advanced Volunteer Management will be held in New Zealand for the very first time. The Retreat will occur in the first half of 2011 and further details about the 2011 event by email at retreat@vpmretreat.com.au

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 9 - 15 MAY 2011

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer.

For more information go to Volunteering Australia's website: www.volunteeringaustralia.org

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

"STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEERING"

Notes and the audio from this conference held at the Novotel in August can be downloaded from the Monash Volunteer Resource Centre website: mvrcvolunteer.org.au

CITY OF MONASH NEWS

Monash Carols by Candlelight Sunday 19 December 2010 8pm - 10pm Jells Park, Wheelers Hill

After the success and a record breaking crowd at the 2009 Carols, we look forward to celebrating the 2010 Carols by Candlelight with more outstanding performances and spectacular fireworks to highlight the night.

Clayton Street Festival Sunday 27 February 2011

12pm - 6pm Clayton Road, Clayton
With over 20,000 people attending the 2010 festival, we look forward to bringing the main street alive again in 2011, with cultural performances, vibrant music and an array of market stalls.

Flavours of Oakleigh Festival Sunday 20 March 2011

12pm - 6pm Warrawee Park, Oakleigh
Come and taste the delights we will have on offer, the day will be full of flavours from around the world to tempt all taste buds. Relax and enjoy high quality live performances of music and cultural dance in the beautiful setting of Warrawee Park.

Mulgrave Fun Day Saturday 17 April 2011 11am - 3pm

Wellington Reserve, Mulgrave
Keep this date free, and come down to Mulgrave with the family for a day of fun with loads of entertainment and activities on offer.

Australia Day 2011 - Register your Interest!

If you are a not for profit organisation or community group, Monash City Council is offering you the opportunity to **advertise your Australia Day event/activity** for free in the annual Australia Day brochure. Conditions include that the event must be at no cost to the community and it must be held in the City of Monash on Australia Day only. This is a great way to promote your group and to recruit new members. Past events have included: Open Days, Bush Walks, Sausage Sizzles, Demonstrations and Dance Classes! Grab your group members and show the community what's on offer on this great day!

To participate please register your interest via the City of Monash website www.monash.vic.gov.au/macd/events/index.htm

Registrations close by 5pm, Friday **10 December 2010**. Please return the form by fax to 9518 3444, email events@monash.vic.gov.au or send to: Community Events Liaison Officer City of Monash PO Box 1 GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150

For more information please contact the Community Events Liaison Officer in Arts and Cultural Development on 9518 3453.

MANAGERS OF VOLUNTEERS

Monash Volunteer Resource Centre hosts a Manager of Volunteers Network meeting on a regular basis. The meetings are informal and are held at 5 Myrtle Street Glen Waverley.

Please contact Shirlene on 9562 0414 or ShirleneS@mrvolunteer.org.au if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

The first meeting for 2011 will be on Tuesday 15 February 2011 at 1 pm



MONASH COMMUNITY SAFETY REGISTER

Monash Community Safety Register, formerly the Senior Citizen's Register, is available to frail and/or aged clients and those with a disability living in the City of Monash.

This is a free service which operates from Monash Volunteer Resource Centre and is funded by Monash City Council.

A secure database which has medical details and details of next of kin is kept at Monash Volunteer Resource Centre and the local police station. In the event of an accident, emergency personnel can appraise essential information. Members also receive a free safety audit of their home and a regular monthly monitoring phone call.

Further information and enrolment forms can be obtained by contacting MVRC on 9562 0414.

MVRC CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR BREAK



The Staff and Volunteers at
Monash Volunteer Resource Centre
would like to wish you all the very best for the coming festive season
and look forward to working with you in 2011.
Last day - Wednesday 22 December 2010
re-opening on Wednesday 4 January 2011

FREE TRAINING AT MVRC 2011

Introduction to Volunteer Training sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 Myrtle Street Glen Waverley

Time: 9.30 am until 11.30 am

Dates: February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, November 8th, December 13th

Introduction to Volunteer Training sessions held at Clayton Community Centre, Cooke St Clayton Mel 79C3
Time: 9.30 am until 11.30 am

Dates: March 23, May 11, July 6, September 7, November 16

WORKSHOPS – all workshops are held from 9.30 am – 11.30 am at Monash Volunteer Resource Centre, 5 Myrtle Street, Glen Waverley.

Workshops for Volunteers:

Safe Food Practices

Wednesday 23 February 2011 Facilitator: City of Monash, Environmental Services

Communicating with People with a Disability

Wednesday 30 March 2011 Facilitator: Bronwen Jones

Communication Skills & Conflict Resolutions

Wednesday 27 April 2011

Facilitator: Brad Desmond, Life Psychology

Intermediate Loss & Grief Wednesday 25 May 2011

Facilitator: Susanne Baxandall

Preparing for a Funeral Wednesday 29 June

2011 Facilitator: Heather McLaren,

John Allison Monkhouse

Privacy & Confidentiality Wednesday 27 July 2011

Facilitator: To be confirmed

Professional Boundaries in your Volunteer Role

Wednesday 31 August 2011

Facilitator: To be confirmed

Volunteering @ Christmas Wednesday 29 September

2011 Facilitator: Monash Volunteer Resource Centre

Dealing with Difficult Behaviour Wednesday 26

October 2011 Facilitator: Brad Desmond, Life Psychology

Taking Care of Yourself as a Volunteer and Carer of a person with dementia – Addressing the Issues and providing Strategies

Wednesday 23 November 2010 Facilitator: Alzheimer's Victoria

Workshops for Agencies: 9.30 am – 11.30 am

Publicity & Promotions - Working with the Media

Wednesday 16 February 2011, Facilitator: Leader

Newspapers

Using CALD Volunteers in your Programs

Wednesday 23 March 2011, Facilitator: Sharon Porteous, Migrant East

Diversity, Discrimination & Leadership

Wednesday 18 May 2011, Facilitator: To be confirmed

Conflict Resolution in your Workplace

Wednesday 22 June 2011, Facilitator: Brad Desmond, Life Psychology

Intellectual Property Issues for the Not for Profit

Wednesday 20 July 2011, Facilitator: Marianne Dunham, Mason Sier Turnbull

Evaluation Skills for Managers of Volunteer

Programs

Wednesday 21 September 2011, Facilitator: Jenni

Livingston

Professionalising Volunteering

Wednesday 23 November 2011, Facilitator: Jenni Livingston

Please Note:

- All sessions are free of charge.
- Bookings are essential for all sessions
- Dates and venues are subject to confirmation.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior as late arrivals will not be admitted.

For bookings & further information contact:

Monash Volunteer Resource Centre Inc

Phone: 9562 0414

Fax: 9562 0411

Email:

mvrc@iinet.net.au

NOTE: PARKING AVAILABILITY Street parking is limited to 2 hours. 4-hour parking is available across the road and at Centrelink which is located in Bogong Ave. Participants are asked not to park on the premises of Monash Volunteer Resource Centre.

Monash Volunteer Resource Centre

5 Myrtle Street
Glen Waverley 3150

CEO: Patricia Lauria

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Email: mvrc@iinet.net.au
Internet: www.mvrcvolunteer.org.au

www.volunteeringaustralia.org

www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au

CORPORATE EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

Monash Volunteer Resource Centre has developed a Corporate Employee Volunteering program linking the expertise of local businesses to non-profit agencies.

For further information please contact Shirlene on 9562 0414

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