



volunteering sa&nt

*Leading volunteering in South Australia
and the Northern Territory*

MEDIA RELEASE

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VOTE FOR VOLUNTEERING IN THE SA STATE ELECTION

With volunteering in Australia worth more to the Australian economy than mining, retail and agriculture combined – it is vital that political parties and the Government of South Australia continue to recognise the value of volunteering and the serious impact of not having a safe, effective and sustainable volunteering sector.

Evelyn O’Loughlin, CEO Volunteering SA&NT said that in South Australia, the skills and time put in by almost one million formal and informal volunteers, equates to 107,400 full time jobs.

“The volunteering sector is worth almost \$5 billion a year to our economy, which verifies that volunteering plays a significant role in the life of South Australians.

“It connects communities and improves the health and wellbeing of its citizens”, said Ms O’Loughlin.

In the lead up to the South Australian State Election, Volunteering SA&NT, the peak body for volunteering in this State is seeking commitment from political parties and the Government of South Australia on a range of issues that are critical to the future of volunteering.

The five key issues are identified below and as Volunteering SA&NT continues to lead, advance, grow, promote and celebrate volunteering in South Australia, everyone is urged to support the sector and encouraged to lobby local candidates to ensure that volunteering doesn’t take a back seat in the upcoming election.

Proposal 1: Free DCSI Screening for Volunteers
<i>To reduce and/or remove barriers to volunteering through excessive paperwork and expense, Volunteering SA&NT seeks to abolish all fees for DCSI screening, which in turn, will see an increase in volunteer numbers, social capital and economic growth.</i>
Proposal 2: Not-for-Profit and Volunteering Advocate
<i>To ensure real solutions to the existing gaps in dispute resolution, protections for volunteers and risk mitigation, Volunteering SA&NT seeks the establishment and funding of a new Not-for-Profit and Volunteering Advocate position.</i>
Proposal 3: Beyond 2020 – Continued Support and Funding for the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia
<i>To ensure that volunteering is recognised as both an important barometer of community wellbeing and fundamental to a sustainable South Australia, Volunteering SA&NT seek support for a further six years for the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia (2021-2027).</i>

Proposal 4: Retention of a Dedicated Volunteering Government Portfolio and the Continuation of the office of Minister for Volunteers
<i>Proposal 4: To ensure that volunteering is considered in major policy and budget decisions, with a coordinated approach across all departments, Volunteering SA&NT seeks commitment for a dedicated volunteering government portfolio and the continuation of the office of Minister for Volunteers</i>
Proposal 5: Ongoing Funding for WeDo Volunteering Smart Phone App
<i>To ensure the continued success and durability of the App in inspiring young people to connect with their community and volunteer, Volunteering SA&NT seeks ongoing funding for the maintenance and enhancement of the WeDo App.</i>

Media enquiries and interviews

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SA State Election 2018

Volunteering Sector Proposals

[Summary](#)

[Full versions](#)

Facts

- Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.
- More than 920,000 South Australians volunteer formally and informally.
- Alarming, formal volunteering is decreasing in South Australia, from a high of 51% in 2006, to 42% today, adding pressure on volunteers who serve in vital areas such as emergency services, disability and aged care.
- South Australian volunteers contribute about 1.7 million volunteer hours each week, equivalent to 107,400 full-time jobs.
- This volunteering effort is valued at almost \$5 billion each year.
- 20,864 registered SA not-for-profit organisations and volunteer associations, with 80% having no employees, have limited income mainly raised through fundraising activities as opposed to grants.