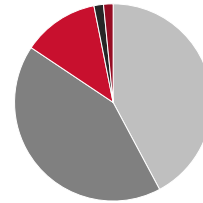


In 2021, Volunteering NT asked members and stakeholders about the issues affecting the volunteering sector and the evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members representing various sectors (over 90%)

Aged Care/ Disability	Peak bodies	Not-for-profits
Emergency Services	Health	Sport & Recreation
Tourism	Education	Children & Families

Major challenges for volunteer programs



- Recruitment, retention, training and development of staff and volunteers
- Responding and adapting to COVID requirements and needs
- Government and other funding and legislation and support
- Internal strategic planning and policies and procedures
- Promotion and awareness of services in the community

Effects of COVID-19

Most organisations in the NT felt 'lucky' to have not been affected as much by the loss of volunteers through COVID lockdowns as other State/Territories, with challenges mainly around implementing safety measures and procedures as required.

Organisations found ways to engage with their volunteers including phone calls, emails, Facebook, and regular updates.

Some organisations found opportunities through changes in the way they engaged volunteers, such as online volunteering opportunities, and found new training opportunities to keep them engaged.



- Recruit/retain volunteers through engagement and re-engagement strategies
- Work on volunteer programs to improve communication and make a more positive enjoyable experience
- Work on strategic planning, improvement of policies and procedures

What's next for Volunteering NT?

The results will inform a range of exciting initiatives that Volunteering NT will deliver into the new year to support the sector and advance volunteering across the Northern Territory. This includes:

- ✓ Increased, innovative networking and NT based training opportunities.
- ✓ Addressing pressing issues such as engagement and retention of volunteers.
- ✓ Forming collaborations to ensure the sector is well supported to engage volunteers.
- ✓ Information on current trends and new ideas for the sector.
- ✓ Increasing promotion on Volunteering NT services and programs.

Other issues you want us to advocate for

- ✓ Recognition for the value of volunteers and the volunteering sector
"...more recognition of the broader benefits volunteering provides to the community."
- ✓ Simplification and streamlining application processes for volunteers
"The application process with compliance checks is very time consuming and we lose many volunteers in the process. One, overarching police check should be enough."
- ✓ Spontaneous volunteering
"Spontaneous Volunteers in Emergencies - framework, structure, risk management, etc."
- ✓ Innovative ideas for engagement of volunteers
"Government to encourage staff to volunteer with relevant organisations including a set amount of workdays for volunteering."

How can Volunteering NT assist organisations to achieve their goals?



Networking, training and promotional opportunities



Support recruiting volunteers



Advocacy to government



Resources, guides and templates