



Government
of South Australia



volunteeringSA-NT
volunteers are vital



Local
Government
Association
of South
Australia



BusinessSA
South Australia's Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Volunteering Strategy for South Australia

Declaration of Cooperation Terms of Reference for Roundtable and Working Group

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

A cross-sector volunteer strategy for South Australia is being developed to improve the experience of our volunteers, enhance outcomes for volunteer involving organisations and help meet South Australia's Strategic Plan target to maintain a volunteer participation rate of 70% or better.

Volunteers in South Australia are at a cross-road. There are ever increasing demands on our volunteers in a changing environment in which they work. As a community, we depend on over 900,000 volunteers for essential services and community well-being.

There is much published data on the issues and barriers facing volunteers. It includes demographic changes, new technology, complex legislation, access to insurance cover, volunteer rights, recruitment and recognition.

We want to ensure that the number of volunteers continues to grow, even in the face of changing community norms, an ageing population and emerging technology. The nature of volunteering in Australia and at a State level is changing and we need to be able to respond to emerging trends and needs.

The volunteering strategy will be a collaborative 'blue-print' for action between four sectors; volunteer involving organisations, business, Local Government and State Government. It will:

- articulate a vision for volunteering over the next 10 years that is distinctly South Australian, reflecting our unique social and economic way of life
- identify where barriers prevent volunteers from participating as much as they would wish to
- promote opportunities to engage those least likely to volunteer
- set down a framework of priorities and an action plan to support government decision making and policy development over the next decade
- encourage community dialogue about the future of volunteering in South Australia.

The development of a partner-driven South Australian Volunteer Strategy will provide an historic opportunity for all sectors, including government, to focus on a coordinated approach to address the diverse and ongoing needs of the volunteer sector.

The Strategy will be informed by the National Volunteering Strategy, the State of Volunteering in Australia report by Volunteering Australia, relevant literature and strategies developed in other jurisdictions.

The issues to be explored will include, but not be limited to, trends in volunteering, volunteer rights, pathway to employment opportunities, regulation, health and safety, police checks, training, recognition and recruitment.

The Strategy will build on the recommendations made by the Minister's Advisory Group on Volunteering in 2013.



PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The partners endorsing the Strategy will be:

- **Minister for Volunteers** (representing the State Government and supported by the Ministerial Advisory Group for Volunteering and Office for Volunteers)
- **Volunteering SA&NT** (representing volunteer involving organisations and supported by regional volunteer centres)
- **Local Government Association of SA** (representing local Councils and supported by the Local Government Volunteer Manager's Network)
- **Business SA** (representing business and industry in South Australia).

Each partner will invite stakeholders to participate in at least two Roundtable discussions to inform the development of the Strategy. The partners will also appoint one representative each to a working group that will manage the operational aspects of the strategy's development.

DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY

The aim of the Roundtable discussions will be to identify key issues to be addressed in the Volunteering Strategy and prioritise the recommendations for its implementation.

When identifying key issues, Roundtable discussions will collect examples of how existing cultural or regulatory frameworks are affecting volunteering.

The first meeting of the Roundtable will confirm important issues that the strategy will need to address. The second meeting will endorse key components of the strategy with recommendations on how different sectors could collaboratively work together to address the many challenges affecting volunteering.

Each strategy partner will distribute open invitations to their sectors to attend the Roundtable discussions which will have a cap of 60 attendees at each meeting. The Minister for Volunteers (or proxy) will chair the Roundtable discussions and will be supported by an independent facilitator and the Volunteering Strategy Working Group.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

The purpose of the working group will be to develop the volunteering strategy and its blueprint for action, for endorsement by the Roundtable.

Each partner will nominate one senior officer (and proxy) to participate in the working group. Working Group members will be authorised to make operational decisions and will be allocated an adequate amount of paid time to progress the strategy's development, obtain endorsement at key milestones and meet mutually agreed deadlines.

Partners will contribute a mutually agreed amount of funding towards project expenses. Each partner will fund the salary costs of their working group members.

The Working Group will appoint a rotating chair from its ranks and share the organising and logistics in a fair manner. It will meet as required and will require three out of the four members to be present at meetings to make a quorum.

Actions arising from each meeting will be recorded by a rotating note taker. Regular reporting to each partner organisation will be the responsibility working group members.

The aim of this process is to ensure that the final strategy is owned and implemented equally by the four sectors that will ensure that volunteering will continue to thrive and prosper in South Australia.



INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME

- December 5, 2013 Signing of the Declaration of Cooperation (International Volunteers Day)
- December 2013 First meeting of the Roundtable (issue identification)
- January 2014 Second meeting of the Roundtable (strategy components)
- February 2014 Draft strategy preparation and consultation
- February 2014 Final endorsement and signing event.

Signed

Date

5 DEC 2013

Hon Tony Piccolo

Minister for Volunteers

Signed

Date

5/12/13

Tim Jackson

Chairperson

Volunteering SA&NT

Signed

Date

5/12/13

Lorraine Rosenberg

Acting President

Local Government Association of SA

Signed

Date

5/12/13

Nigel McBride

Chief Executive Officer

Business SA