

## Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2021-2027

### Declaration of Cooperation

#### Background and context

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Volunteers are the heart of our state. Over 900,000 people – that’s approximately 70% of South Australians – freely donate their time and efforts to volunteer initiatives that contribute approximately \$5 billion to our economy every year.

In 2014, the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2014-20 was released in partnership with the Government of South Australia, Business SA, the Local Government Association of South Australia and peak volunteering advocacy body Volunteering SA&NT. The Volunteering Strategy provides a coordinated and collaborative blueprint for action, identifying opportunities to promote and sustain volunteering.

The current Volunteering Strategy will conclude in December 2020. The resources and tools developed have positively impacted on South Australia 900,000+ volunteers.

Signing partners recommitted to a second Volunteering Strategy at a Plenary session on 5 December 2017. Subsequently, Volunteering SA&NT sought commitment from the major South Australian parliamentary parties to ensure support for a second Volunteering Strategy.

In March 2018, the Marshall Liberal Government committed to continue support for this partnership for the next stage beyond 2020.

The second Volunteering Strategy will be in place for a further 6 years (2021-2027) and ensure the partnership’s sustained focus and commitment to the volunteering sector. Incorporating lessons learned from the first Volunteering Strategy, the second Volunteering Strategy will introduce a more flexible governance structure and deliver on initiatives that grow and support volunteering in South Australia.

#### Partner roles and responsibilities

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The partners endorsing the second Volunteering Strategy will be:

- **Minister for Human Services** (representing the State Government and supported by the Public Sector Volunteer Policy Network)
- **Volunteering SA&NT** (representing volunteer involving organisations and supported by Volunteer Resource 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).

The partners will appoint one representative each to oversee the implementation of the Volunteering Strategy.

## Governance structure

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### *Partnership Board*

Members of the partnership board represent the cross-sectoral signing partnership and serves as the governing body of the Volunteering Strategy. The partnership board will meet quarterly and report to signing partners on a regular basis.

An independent chair ensures that the board is effective in its tasks of implementing the Volunteering Strategy.

### *Secretariat support*

Secretariat works across the partnership board, networks and working groups to:

- connect partnership board members and stakeholders to work together on common goals
- support the partnership board's independent chair
- support practical results that achieve Volunteering Strategy goals and objectives

### *Networks and working groups*

These groups comprise relevant sector representatives who contribute their time, expertise, passions, and lived experiences to help develop and implement strategies to achieve the Volunteering Strategy goals and objectives.

## Development of a second Volunteering Strategy for South Australia

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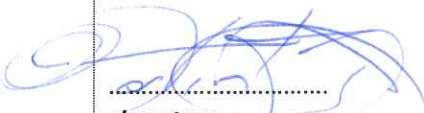
In the development of the second Strategy, the four-way partnership will continue and the Department of Human Services (Secretariat) will be focused on embedding how we best support and improve the key role volunteering plays in sustaining healthy, resilient communities and individual wellbeing. In addition, contributing to the quality and vibrancy of our society, building on both what has been achieved and what has changed since 2014.

The development timeline includes:

- April 2020 Consultation opened for volunteering sector, volunteers and members of the community to provide feedback (YourSay online engagement).
- May 2020 Consultation (online survey) opened for primary and secondary students to find out their experiences and opinions about volunteering.
- July 2020 Online focus groups with key stakeholders to agree on high-level goals.
- August 2020 Consultation closes and development of second strategy begins.
- September 2020 Feedback from key stakeholders, volunteering sector, volunteers and members of the community on draft strategy.
- November 2020 Endorsement of refreshed Strategy and governance structure by Strategy partners.
- December 2020 Public release of second Strategy and governance structure.

Declaration

This Declaration of Cooperation is evidence to and a statement of the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties. The undersigned parties to this Declaration of Cooperation have, through a collaborative process, agreed and pledge their commitment to a second Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2021-2027.

Volunteering Strategy Partner and/or representative		
<b>HON MICHELLE LENSINK</b> Minister for Human Services Government of South Australia	 ..... <i>signature</i>	27.8.20 ..... <i>date</i>
<b>EVELYN O'LOUGHLIN</b> Chief Executive Officer Volunteering SA&NT	 ..... <i>signature</i>	27/8/2020 ..... <i>date</i>
<b>MARTIN HAESE</b> Chief Executive Officer Business SA	 ..... <i>signature</i>	27/8/2020 ..... <i>date</i>
<b>LISA TEBUREA</b> Executive Director, Public Affairs Local Government Association of SA  On behalf of: Matt Pinnegar Chief Executive Officer Local Government Association of SA	 ..... <i>signature</i>	27/8/2020. ..... <i>date</i>