

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 29 April 2019



Funding announced for Volunteering

Volunteering Australia welcomes the announcement by the Hon Minister for Families and Social Services Paul Fletcher MP of around \$559,000 in funding for volunteering projects this morning. This includes around \$275,000 for Volunteering Australia and around \$284,000 for Justice Connect for specialist legal advice for Volunteer Involving Organisations.

This funding will see Volunteering Australia receive a one-off sum of around \$128,000 to establish a clearinghouse or resource hub for the volunteering sector and a further \$147,000 to go toward the National Volunteering Conference and the 2020 National Volunteer Week.

With the reliance on volunteers in the Australian community, Volunteering Australia stresses the importance of safe and effective volunteering, and the need for volunteer programs to be supported by data, best-practice resources, research and information.

Volunteering Australia CEO Adrienne Picone said, "The volunteering clearinghouse will provide a single-entry point to access nationally consistent resources, data, research and information. There has been a strong need for the project identified within the sector and we are very pleased to be able to deliver this to the sector over the next year."

Volunteering Australia has also received funding for its National Conference and National Volunteer Week. As the lead agency responsible for the week, Volunteering Australia develops all resources, merchandise, logos and other material associated with the week, and delivers this within existing resources.

"It is welcome that the Government has provided funding for National Volunteer Week in 2020, which will enhance our capacity to deliver on the week for the sector. Meanwhile, the National Conference is strongly received by the sector and an important opportunity to share information, network and find out the latest innovations in volunteer management," said Ms Picone.

However, Volunteering Australia notes that for a sector of this size, longer-term, ongoing and indexed funding for projects is necessary to strategically build the capacity of the volunteering sector and lead a culture of giving in Australia.

You can read more about our recommendations in Volunteering Australia's election platform here: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/cultureofgiving.

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