

**The Hon Luke Anthony Donnellan**

Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers  
C/- Victoria Parliament  
Melbourne, Victoria

17 January 2019

**RE: 2019/20 Budget – Investing in our State’s volunteering capacity**

Dear Minister Donnellan,

Volunteering Victoria is excited to support this Government’s election commitments to:

- Develop a Victorian Volunteer Strategy
- Coordinate volunteering policy across government
- Explore initiatives to build capacity in volunteer-involving organisations
- Explore initiatives that encourage volunteerism among under-represented cohorts

From our shared perspective, Victoria’s 931,000 volunteers are most effective when they are capably led and managed with the right mix of strategy, culture and trust. To ensure this remarkable workforce remains resilient and ready to respond to current and future trends and opportunities, we believe the sector would benefit from financial investment in initiatives that will:

- build capacity in volunteer involving organisations,
- support technology platforms that may assist in maximising volunteer effort,
- managing regulatory requirements,
- measure impact, and
- encourage volunteerism among under-represented cohorts and address unmet or emerging community needs

On the following two pages, we provide a high-level overview of investment options that enable the sector to complement and fulfil the government’s aspirations for volunteering to remain a central feature of both Victoria’s rural and metro communities over the coming fiscal year.

Kind regards,



**Scott Miller**  
Chief Executive  
Volunteering Victoria



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	2019/20 Investment Option	State Outputs	State Outcomes	State Investment
1	<b>Build capacity in Victorian volunteer-involving organisations</b>	1. Establishing an annual contestable fund for Volunteer Support Organisations (VSOs) to provide local initiatives to their place-based volunteering community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSOs develop and offer innovative place-based solutions for their local community organisations</li> <li>• VIOs and volunteer leaders build capacity in their organisations</li> </ul>	\$1M
		2. Funding VV to run a State-wide programme (e.g. 8-12 workshops) on the National Standards for Volunteer-Involvement in collaboration with local volunteer resource centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteering personnel feel more capable/confident to develop best-practice habits</li> <li>• VIOs and volunteer leaders build capacity in their organisations</li> <li>• Rural and regional organisations have more opportunities to participate</li> </ul>	\$0.1M
2	<b>Support technology platforms that may assist in maximising volunteer effort</b>	1. Funding VV to develop an online platform that encourages organisations to self-assess the effectiveness of their volunteers' efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online self-assessments help people identify their organisation's strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>• Data collected can help VSOs focus on content areas in which organisations are struggling/need further assistance</li> </ul>	\$0.05M
		2. Commissioning VV to produce a feasibility study into an online 'volunteer-passport' system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Passport holders' demonstrate they have the basic skills needed to volunteer</li> <li>• Passports reduce the need to repeat training courses and saves money for organisations</li> <li>• Passports may help give 'holders' confidence and open doors.</li> </ul>	\$0.025M

3	<b>Manage regulatory requirements</b>	3. Subsidise/waive police-vetting fees (currently \$17.90 per volunteer check)	4. VIOs have more financial resources to fund direct services and organisational outcomes	\$5M (estimate)
4	<b>Measure volunteer impact more effectively</b>	5. Funding VV + the Victorian Volunteer Support Network to develop a toolkit of resources to assess the various ways of measuring impact	6. Organisations are better able to align the work of volunteers with the organisation's mission and goals, evaluate their success and report to all stakeholders.	\$0.05M
5	<b>Encourage volunteerism among under-represented communities</b>	7. Funding VV + VSOs to develop training and resources for under-represented sectors (e.g. CALD, environment, smaller sports etc.) on strategies and systems to recruit and retain volunteers from	8. Under-represented VIOs have a more structure and support to effectively involve and champion representation and involvement from under-represented communities (e.g. migrants, older men, youth, etc.)	\$0.1M

N.B We are more than happy to provide more accurate and comprehensive valuations on any and each of these investment options.