

Your monthly volunteering sector update

FEBRUARY 2021

volunteering MATTERS

News for members & stakeholders
from Victoria's peak volunteering
body



message from our CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Recently, we led advocacy efforts to waive proposed costs for services provided by volunteers within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) sector under the Worker Screening Regulations 2020 (VIC). The check fee of **\$119.40 will be waived for volunteers** by completing a Volunteer Fee Waiver Form which is available on the [NDIS Screen check website](#). We are thrilled with this outcome, the result of significant consultation with our members and networks to enhance our advocacy and ongoing discussions with the Department of Justice. An illustration of what can be done when we work together to tackle barriers to volunteering!

[Read our submission »](#)

Additionally, with the Australian Government recently announcing their intention redesign the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) with a new program model, we have been advocating to the State Government that they commence investment in the face-to-face engagement that ensures Volunteer Support Services remain important feature of our State's place-based infrastructure.

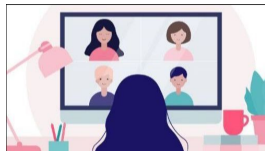
[Read our submission »](#)

I look forward to resuming our important work together this year.

Scott Miller

Chief Executive

our HIGHLIGHTS



VOTE

**volunteering
victoria ceo, scott
miller, nominated
for impact 25,
probono australia
awards**

We are proud to share that our CEO, Scott Miller, has been short-listed as a nominee for Pro Bono Australia's 2021 Impact 25 Awards. Click [here](#) to cast your vote.

[Vote here »](#)



**STATE
STRATEGY
regional
workshops resume**

As COVID-19 restrictions have eased, a series of regional community forums are being scheduled to ensure volunteers, community members and organisations can be heard.

[Read on »](#)



**FORUM
building back
better: re-imaging
and strengthening
our volunteer
sector**

Hear from leading voice and keynote speaker, [Beth Steinhorn](#) from [VQ Volunteer Strategies](#) to re-imagine our volunteer sector after the challenges of COVID-19.

[Register here »](#)

REGISTER NOW

**weVolunteer: a community
recovery volunteering
initiative**

Volunteers »

Do you want to help your community when a disaster strikes? By registering on weVolunteer, you will be part of a coordinated, safe and accessible effort to help the recovery of communities in times of need. Register your interest to join Community Recovery Volunteering - it's **free** to register and only takes a few minutes!

[Find out more »](#)

Did you know that weVolunteer can help you source volunteers? By registering with weVolunteer, you can share your roles with a targeted pool of Community Recovery Volunteers willing to help where needed. Just ask our weVolunteer team for more information.

[Find out more »](#)



sector ADVOCACY

we want to hear from you!

Volunteering Victoria advocates for and supports the rights, well-being and interests of volunteers. We build and maintain strong mutually beneficial relationships to ensure engagement and investment for the volunteering sector.

Visit our **advocacy** page and let us know what you think about our current priorities.

ADVOCACY

meeting with cindy mcleish

We recently met with Cindy McLeish, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, key Shadow Ministerial contact for volunteering matters, and golf enthusiast.

We had a wide-ranging discussion the issues facing the volunteering sector and challenges for our members – from the pressures facing grassroots organisations to larger reforms underway.

We also made some early recommendations for how volunteering can support the initiatives outlined in the Liberal Party Back to Work Plan.

We look forward to working with Cindy in 2021.

lgbtiq+ inclusive volunteering

Volunteering is a crucial means of participating in our communities. LGBTIQ+ volunteers should be able to participate in our communities free from discrimination. As leaders of volunteers, we have a duty to provide safe and inclusive experiences for diverse people from all communities.

The Victorian Government is consulting on its LGBTIQ+ [Strategic Directions document](#).

We encourage you to provide your own feedback to this process.

ADVOCACY

supporting victorian volunteer support services

The Australian Government has recently announced their intention to discontinued funding Volunteer Support Organisations (VSOs) from the 2021-22 financial year. This decision will impact the capacity of most VSOs to serve their communities and the geographic coverage of which communities benefit from these services. Read our submission to the Government.

ADVOCACY

parliamentary advocacy

We have reached out to several parliamentary members requesting a meeting to continue our advocacy efforts for volunteering. Check out who we have contacted so far.

for LEADERS

SURVEY

your inclusive training needs: quick poll

We have a strong interest in promoting safe and inclusive volunteering across Victoria. We want to support leaders of volunteers to be inclusive of diverse communities. To help us understand your inclusive training needs and interests this year, please take our (very short and very quick) survey.

[Take survey »](#)

5 FREE TICKETS

hancock creative: unite 2021

It is a world first, 24 hour, world wide digital event, especially designed for those in the NFP sector and aiming to do good in the world. Interested in attending?

Volunteering Victoria members can access this event by either one of the following:

- [5 free tickets available](#): email camellia@volunteeringvictoria.org.au with your expression of interest before **12 February 2021** and get a free ticket to attend.
- [Receive a 30% discount](#): using the code VOLVIC30

MENTORING PROGRAM

applications closing soon: 26 february 2021

Volunteering Victoria's Volunteer Managers Mentoring program offers both professional and personal development opportunities for passionate individuals seeking to develop their skills and careers.

SECTOR TOOL

volpoll: engagement tool designed for volunteers and small-medium groups

Have you used VolPoll yet? This free volunteer engagement tool can help you better understand your volunteering opportunities and threats.

research & REPORTS

REPORT

time well spent: diversity and volunteering

For the great majority of people volunteering is a positive experience, however some volunteers are less likely to have a positive experience than others, including younger, Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME), and disabled volunteers. This report – which builds on NCVO's Time Well Spent research – looks at organisational approaches to diversity and inclusive volunteering.

REPORT

the impacts of volunteering on the subjective wellbeing of volunteers: a rapid evidence assessment

This rapid evidence assessment (REA) examines what is known about the impacts of volunteering on the subjective wellbeing of volunteers.

REPORT

volunteering naturally 2020: understanding victoria's environmental volunteers 2020

During 2020, Victorians have seen an unprecedented level of disruption to how we live, work, connect and volunteer. Whilst still processing the bushfires that occurred in late 2019 through to early 2020, our community was thrown into a global pandemic. These significant national and international events have put a sharp focus on the importance of nature in our lives which is reflected in this 2019-2020 stock-take of environmental volunteering.

Membership

We assist you to lead, manage and support your volunteers more effectively to achieve your vision for volunteering in Victoria.

By joining Volunteering Victoria and working with us, you help ensure there is a formidable, inclusive, and

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Your state peak body for more effective volunteering

Questions or feedback? Contact us on **03 8327 8500** or info@volunteeringvictoria.org.au

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