



Volunteer Management Activity

The Future of the Program

On 30 June 2021, all current funding agreements under the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) will cease. These funding agreements will not receive any form of extension, as the Commonwealth Government does not have the Constitutional authority to continue the program in its current form.

From 1 July 2021, the Department of Social Services (the department) will distribute \$33.5 million, over five years, to the state and territory volunteering peak bodies, through a closed non-competitive funding round, to administer the new VMA program. The Commonwealth Government can only continue to fund volunteer management if the VMA is redesigned to align with a head of power under the Australian Constitution, as described below.

The Commonwealth Government will further invest a one off sum of up to \$2.5 million in 2020-21 to develop and improve volunteer management IT infrastructure.

What the new program will look like

The new VMA program will involve:

- online services to build the capacity of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs); and
- breaking down barriers to volunteering for certain priority groups.

The online services delivered to VIOs will focus on implementing best practice recruiting and training of volunteers, retaining volunteers, volunteer management and understanding regulatory obligations and risk management. There will also be online resources.

Increasing the accessibility of volunteering opportunities for people in priority groups includes building the capacity of VIOs to engage volunteers from these groups and providing face to face and other services to support these groups to participate in volunteering. The priority groups the Commonwealth Government can support are First Nations People, people with disability and newly arrived migrants.

The new VMA program is aligned to the Australian Constitution; is more efficient and effective; and responds to the changing volunteering environment.

Peak Body Requirements

The volunteering peak bodies will be required to develop and implement strategies to deliver and manage the VMA program in their respective jurisdictions. These strategies must include how the peak bodies will work with local organisations to deliver the program and create state-wide consistency. The peak bodies will determine how funding is distributed to partner organisations. Volunteer Support Services are encouraged to engage with peak bodies in relation to what services they could offer to support the new VMA program.