

Volunteering Management Activity (VMA) – 2021-2026

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA)?

- The VMA is a current stream of federal funding aimed at strengthening volunteering across Australia. Support for volunteering has been funded federally most recently by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The program has been known under different names over time and was previously referred to as the VMP program.

How was the 2018-2021 VMA delivered?

- The 2018-2021 VMA funded 52 organisations to deliver 72 Volunteer Support Services (VSS) from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2021. The total funding was \$18.791 million (excluding GST). The funding was provided to increase participation in volunteering through the development of resources and support to individuals, volunteers, volunteer managers and volunteering organisations.

What are the key components of the new 2021-2026 VMA program?

- DSS has chosen to redesign VMA with the aim to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the program.
- The new program will focus on:
 - The delivery of online services to build the capacity of Volunteer Involving organisations (VIOs) within their relevant jurisdictions;
 - The breaking down of barriers to volunteering faced by three (3) identified priority groups: People with Disabilities, First Nations People, and Newly Arrived Migrants, and;
 - An increase in coverage across regional, rural and remote areas.

How much funding will be provided?

- From 1 July 2021, the Australian Government will distribute up to **\$40.1 million** (excluding GST) over five years under the new VMA. This includes a one-off funding of **up to \$6.6 million** (excluding GST) to support a smooth transition to the redesigned VMA in 2021-22.
- This is equivalent to the total funding previously provided under the VMA, including the equivalent of Social and Community Services wage supplementation, which will be rolled into base funding going forward.



What was announced in the 2021-22 Federal Budget?

- The Commonwealth Government will further invest \$6.6 million in a one-off grant to VPBs to support the delivery of the VMA fund. We refer to this as the ‘VMA1’ grant in this document.
- The Commonwealth Government also announced an additional \$2.5 million in the 2020-21 Federal Budget to develop and improve volunteer management IT infrastructure associated with the delivery of the program.

What Federal funding is available via Volunteering Victoria (VV)?

- DSS will contract VV to support the Victorian volunteering community through two grant processes:
 1. The 2021-26 VMA Grant as outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines ([link](#)). Referred to as the ‘VMA5’ in this document;
 2. The 2021-22 ‘Supporting the delivery of the Volunteer Management Activity’ Grant (as announced in the 2021-22 Federal Budget). Referred to as the ‘VMA5’ grant in this document.

	The VMA5 Fund	The VMA1 Fund
Who will receive funding in the redesigned program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the new VMA program, Volunteer Peak Bodies (VPBs) will be responsible for delivering the new program to support capacity building in their jurisdiction. • VV will develop appropriate strategies to ensure equitable service coverage, using existing localised services and structures where possible. • VV will partner with volunteer-involving organisations (VIOs), Volunteer Support Services (VSSs), Local Government Authorities (LGAs), Indigenous entities and other businesses in their jurisdiction to develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This fund is non-competitive and only available to currently VMA funded Victorian VSSs.



	service delivery strategies consistent with the DSS <i>Grant Opportunity Guidelines</i> .	
How can I express interest in this fund?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An EOI process is expected to be developed and implemented early in the 2021-2022 financial year and will invite applications from partners in due course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An EOI process involving all currently partnering VSSs was completed in May 2021.

I am a local Volunteer Involving Organisation – what will change in my area?

- VSSs will continue to engage with VIOs via online technologies and focus their efforts on breaking down barriers in your organisation across the three priority groups (People with Disabilities, First Nations People, and Newly Arrived Migrants) in a meaningful and respectful manner. The narrower focus of the VMA program may result in restrictions on what services your VSS may provide to you face to face.

I am a local volunteer – what will change in my area?

- VV and all VSSs remain committed to helping anyone who wishes to volunteer to find meaningful roles and opportunities online. While this engagement remains, it is possible that some VSSs may struggle to meet the needs of volunteers outside of the focus areas of the redesigned VMA.
- VV, VSSs and all its partners will continue to advocate for further funding at the local, state and national level to be able to lead the development of a collaborative, sustainable, thriving volunteering community and movement in Victoria.

I am a local council – what will change in my area?

- The aims of the 2021-2026 VMA program are narrower than the previous iteration and funded VSSs will need to focus on online capacity building for VIOs, breaking down barriers to volunteering faced by priority groups and increase coverage of services in regional, rural, and remote areas. VSSs who wish to continue to assist other cohorts are encouraged to do so, but they may need to secure further funding from local and state governments to help them with this engagement. Local councils are encouraged to check in with their specific VSS to ascertain what may change in their local workplan.

