

Volunteering Victoria

Project Information

VMA5 DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK AND
IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS FOR VICTORIA



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Project Overview

The Volunteer Management Activity 5 (VMA5) replaced the Department of Social Services (DSS) Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) program on 1 July 2021. In February 2021 DSS announced its intention to redesign the VMA in partnership with the Volunteer Peak Bodies with a focus on:

1. Building the capacity of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) through online volunteer management services.
2. Breaking down barriers to volunteering for three identified priority groups:
 - a. First Nations.
 - b. New Migrants.
 - c. People living with a disability.

Project Aim

To ensure Volunteering Victoria (VV) meets the aims of the redesigned grant and engages with a wide range of stakeholders, it has commissioned LDC Group to undertake an environmental scan and consultation framework and to provide advice on how best to implement VMA5 at a jurisdictional level to ensure the success of the program.

It is envisioned that the environmental scan, consultation process and recommendations about the redesigned VMA will be endorsed by the VV board, and then released publicly as part of Volunteering Victoria's commitment to transparent design in meeting the aims of the redesigned VMA.

VMA Framework 2021-2026

This redesign is a radical departure from how volunteer management services have previously been delivered across Australia and puts Volunteering Victoria in a new role as jurisdictional provider and funder of services.

The VMA Framework 2021-2026 has identified three pillars of success for VMA5:

1. Increased opportunities to participate and reduction of barriers that prevent the inclusion of volunteers from identified backgrounds.
2. High quality and accessible volunteering based on National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.
3. Improve the accessibility and range of quality Volunteer Management products and services across each jurisdiction.
 - To assist with managing the risks associated with VMA5, the VMA Council (Volunteering Management Activity Council) will develop a national risk management policy; Volunteering Victoria are undertaking the same task at the jurisdictional level.
 - The current project will assist with risk mitigation and transparency and assure organisations at risk of defunding that Volunteering Victoria has been as objective as possible in assessing how to design the VMA and achieve the new grant objectives.
 - As part of delivering the VMA5 it is likely Volunteering Victoria will undertake a competitive expression of interest process and/or invite partners to deliver projects to meet the grant's objectives. Volunteering Victoria aims for the expression of interest process to be launched towards the end of 2021.

Background

- National grant guidelines (for jurisdictional EOIs) were published in April 2021 and Volunteering Victoria was successfully funded in June 2021.
- There is an expectation from DSS that Volunteering Victoria will partner with existing services within their jurisdiction to deliver the aims of the grant. This funding is not limited to previous recipients of VMA funding.
- Concurrently, the Department of Social Services announced additional funding for Volunteer Support Services currently funded under the 2018 – 2021 VMA program to apply for a non-competitive funding round (VMA1) as a one-off addition to the redesigned VMA. Through a nationally consistent process Volunteering Victoria conducted a closed EOI process for this funding for existing Volunteer Support Services (VSS). All 16 VSS's submitted an EOI and were successful in securing funding until 30 June 2022. This funding is not recurrent and no VSS is guaranteed any financial support after 30 June 2022.
- The funding available for the duration of the program is as follows:

2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total*
\$2,873**	\$1,301	\$1,318	\$1,318	\$1,318	\$8,128

* Funding in \$m (GST exclusive).

** The funding for 2021-2022 includes VMA1 and VMA5.

- National and jurisdictional strategies for grant delivery have been proposed throughout the grant submission process, but Volunteering Victoria has engaged external consultants to guide detail and manage key stakeholders to ensure transparency in the redesign for VMA5.

Volunteering Support Services (VSSs)

- VSSs are key partners in delivering the previously designed VMA, a vital part of the volunteer sector infrastructure and also members of Volunteering Victoria.
- To date, Volunteering Victoria has engaged with VSSs funded under the previous VMA funding throughout this process due to the uncertainty around their eligibility for future funding.
- Volunteering Victoria has previously collaborated with VSSs but not been their principal funder.
- In 2020 Volunteering Victoria administered 13 short term grants to most VSSs through state government project funds.

Organisations Linked to the Priority Groups

In addition to the Volunteer Support Services, Volunteering Victoria is keen to engage with organisations supporting and connected to the three priority groups identified by DSS as part of the scope of the redesigned VMA.

Victorian Government

The Victorian Government is currently working to finalise and release their State Volunteering Strategy. State government representatives from the Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) responsible for delivering the strategy have been involved in early communications with VSSs around the changes in funding. DFFH are keen to coordinate with the redesign of the VMA in Victoria to minimize duplication, and ensure their strategy is targeted to meet state needs not covered by the scope of the new VMA. Their strategy timeframes mean that any redesign work completed by VV needs to be communicated to them by the end of October 2021.

Sector Consultations

LDC Group will conduct sector consultations across Victoria. These will include:

- A sector-wide survey in late August 2021
- Focus groups in September 2021
- Interviews with key informants as required in September 2021

VSSs, VIOs and organisations that support or have links with the three priority groups will be informed about the consultation schedule and invited to participate. Given COVID restrictions consultations are most likely going to occur via videoconferencing.

The Consultants

The consulting team will make every effort to engage with the sector and you are encouraged to contact the lead consultants Liz Dimitriadis and Russell Jaffe directly if you are unable to participate in scheduled consultations and would like to be involved. The consulting team comprises:



Liz Dimitriadis
Project
Manager



Russell Jaffe
Lead
Consultant



Anne Smyth
Senior
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Kinsie Hope
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