

# Case study: Leading change towards inclusive practice

## Building Inclusive Volunteer Opportunities

**This case study showcases the successful collaboration between multiple disability service providers, disability organisations, and volunteer-involving organisations in creating meaningful volunteering opportunities for individuals with disabilities.**

By joining forces and leveraging each other's strengths, these stakeholders have effectively fostered an inclusive volunteering environment, benefiting both volunteers and the community.

The initiative commenced with a roundtable discussion, bringing together representatives from various disability service providers, along with disability organisations like the Regional Disability Advocacy Service, Onima Disability Services, Junction Support Services, Gateway Health, Intereach, Personnel Group, AMP, Aspire, National Disability Coordination Officer, Kirinari, CVGT, and OCTEC. Additionally, Wodonga Council and volunteer-involving organisations including, Our Native Garden, Lutheran Aged Care, and Foodshare participated in the collaboration.

### **Sharing Resources and Expertise**

Each participating organisation brought unique resources and expertise to the table. Disability service providers offered specialised support and training for volunteers with disabilities, ensuring they were well-equipped for their roles. The disability organisations provided valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of individuals with disabilities, helping volunteer-involving organisations tailor volunteering opportunities accordingly.

### **Identifying Opportunities and Breaking Barriers**

Through open dialogue and shared knowledge, the Consortium identified specific areas where volunteering opportunities could be created or enhanced. They also addressed barriers that prevented individuals with disabilities from accessing volunteering roles, including transportation challenges, online support limitations, and accessibility.

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### Measurable Impact and Benefits

#### **Increase in disability service providers registering participants seeking volunteering opportunities:**

Since the collaboration's formation, there has been a notable increase in disability service providers contacting Albury Wodonga Resource Bureau to register individuals with disabilities seeking volunteering opportunities. The collaborative effort has heightened awareness of available volunteering roles and the inclusive environment, leading to more individuals expressing their interest in contributing to the community.

#### **Increase in disability service providers scheduling pathways to volunteering training:**

As a direct outcome of the collaboration, disability service providers have scheduled more pathways to volunteering training sessions. These training programs aim to equip individuals with disabilities with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen volunteering roles.

This project is currently in its infancy stage, and with further networking and collaboration, it has the potential to significantly contribute to the diversification of inclusive volunteering opportunities. The measurable impacts, including increased participation and registration of volunteers, highlight the positive effects of this collaborative effort on individuals and the community.

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### Conclusion

It is hoped that as the Volunteer Management Activity 2022-2026 continues to grow, it will enable volunteers with disabilities to have a wider array of opportunities to choose from, aligning with their interests and abilities. This diversification is crucial in enhancing their overall volunteering experience, ensuring that they find meaningful and fulfilling roles within the community.

Providing an inclusive volunteering environment, the Consortium has taken significant steps towards breaking down barriers and promoting active participation of individuals with disabilities.

The collaborative approach of bringing together multiple disability service providers, disability organisations, and volunteer involving organisations has proven successful in generating volunteering opportunities. Through shared resources, expertise, and communication, the power of working collectively towards a common goal is demonstrated. Stakeholders are committed to expanding volunteering opportunities for individuals with disabilities, creating a more inclusive and engaged community.

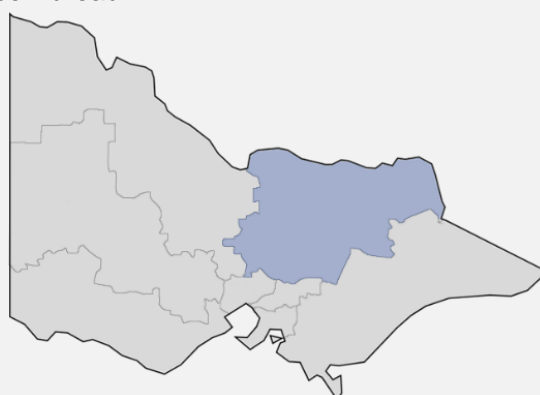
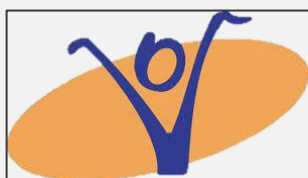
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**Date:** August 2023



This case study was produced with funding provided through the Volunteer Management Activity 2022-2026 grant. You may learn more about the program by visiting this website:

<https://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/leading-volunteers/vma-2022-2026/>



Funded by the Australian Government  
Department of Social Services.



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

*Volunteering Victoria acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.*