

FY25-26 VMA Highlights

Breaking down barriers & building
sector capacity in Victoria



Funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



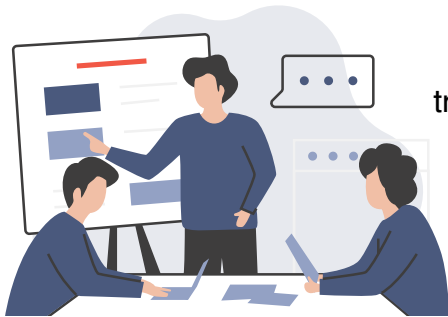
Australian Government
Department of Social Services

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

Year Overview

FY25-26 VMA HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteering Victoria is proud to celebrate the following highlights from the fourth year of the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) 2022-26 program in Victoria.



54

training sessions

1,399

attendees

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



8

sessions

215

attendees

42,908
VMA page views

16,944
resource downloads



8 regions

LOCAL NETWORKS

+8.8%
geographical reach

SECTOR SUPPORT



663,759
socials impressions

1,510

phone & email enquiries

- ? Capacity & knowledge building
- ? Programs for leaders of volunteers
- ? Finding a volunteer role
- ? Operational advice



Program Delivery

FY25-26 OVERVIEW

Eight consortiums lead delivery of the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) 2022-26 program in Victoria.

The Consortium Leads form a collaborative network to support and coordinate the work across all eight regions:

- Barwon South West
- Eastern Metro
- Gippsland
- Grampians
- Hume
- Loddon Mallee
- North West Metro
- Southern Metro

The fourth year of the VMA program focused on:

- consolidating progress made so far;
- building upon prior work and partnerships;
- exploring ways for program outcomes to remain sustainable beyond the funding period.

100%

of Consortium Leads reported increased community impact



Learn more

Scan for more information about the VMA program.

Aims of the VMA program:

-  Break down barriers to volunteering for priority groups
-  Deliver online services to build the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations
-  Drive best practice volunteer management

Key outcomes achieved:

-  Improved pathways into volunteering for priority groups
-  Strengthened cross-sector partnerships, collaboration and knowledge-sharing
-  Increased organisational capability to recruit, support and retain volunteers
-  Greater use of community feedback and lived experience to inform decision-making
-  Increased confidence to implement inclusive volunteering practices
-  More connected and resilient local volunteering ecosystems

“The consortium proved that **place-based, relationship-driven** funding works.”

“Organisations that previously worked in silos are now **actively connecting**, referring to each other, and approaching shared challenges collectively rather than independently.”

Region Highlights

FY25-26 OVERVIEW

GRAMPIANS

- Collaborated with volunteer-involving organisations and young people to develop and adapt volunteering opportunities to be more youth-inclusive.
- **Impact:** Eight young people secured volunteer placements, while all participating organisations enhanced their practices to better engage young and diverse volunteers.

LODDON MALLEE

- Partnered with multicultural organisations to deliver workshops for both newly arrived migrants and volunteer-involving organisations, creating direct pathways into volunteering.
- **Impact:** Embedded information about volunteering into settlement documentation for all new migrants.

HUME

- Partnered with Sport North East to support people with disability to access volunteering opportunities within local sporting clubs.
- **Impact:** Strengthened inclusive practices and supported more diverse volunteer participation.

GIPPSLAND

- Launched the Community Networking Hub, a regional training and networking program delivered in partnerships with all six Gippsland local governments.
- **Impact:** Strengthened collaboration, sharing of resources, and volunteer management capability across the region.

EASTERN METRO

- Made online learning modules on inclusive volunteering and youth engagement available to all volunteer-involving organisations across the region.
- **Impact:** More organisations now understand inclusive practices and how to effectively engage young people, with flexible online delivery improving access to professional development.

BARWON SOUTH WEST

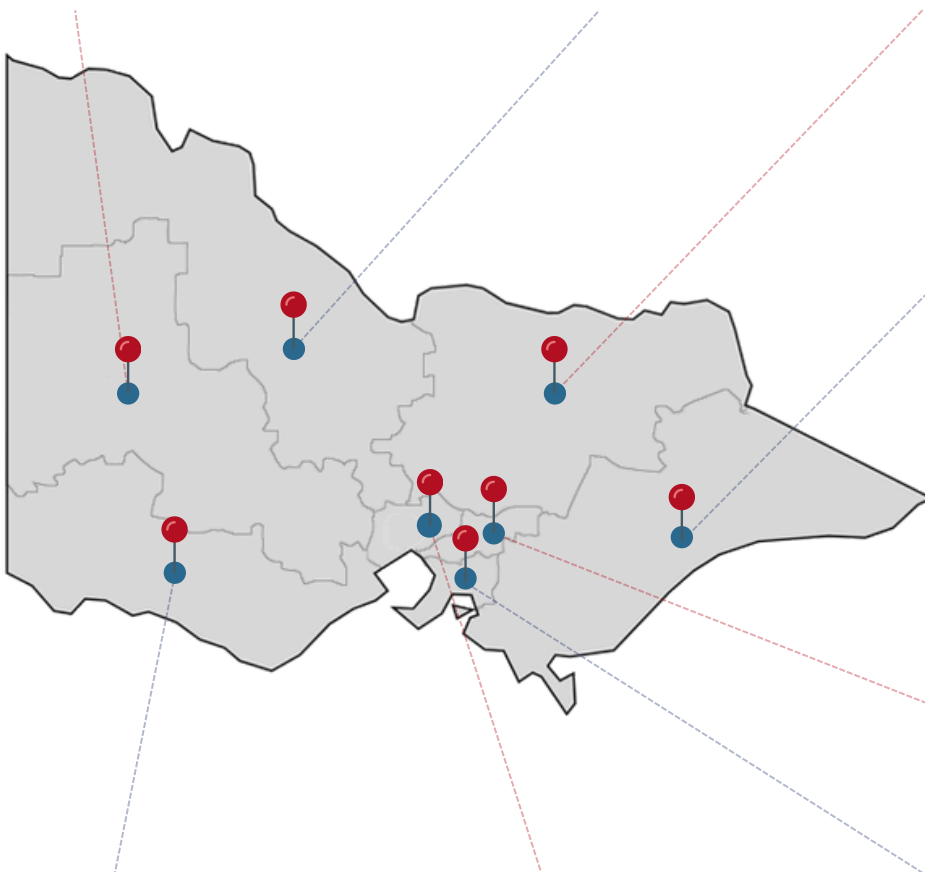
- Partnered with Deakin University to undertake research into how priority groups access information about volunteering.
- **Impact:** Identified gaps in communication, messaging and service coordination, providing evidence to inform more inclusive volunteer engagement practices.

NORTH WEST METRO

- Delivered seven training sessions for the Volunteer Engagement Network, supporting capability-building for leaders of volunteers.
- **Impact:** Greater confidence and capacity to strengthen volunteer leadership, embed inclusive practices and support sustainable program growth.

SOUTHERN METRO

- Delivered cultural art workshops and on-Country experiences that connected volunteers and organisations with First Nations culture and knowledge.
- **Impact:** Strengthened cultural understanding and confidence in engaging respectfully with First Nations communities.



Training

FY25-26 OVERVIEW

54
training
sessions

1,399
attendees

465
organisations
represented

92%
satisfaction
rating

Throughout 2025-26, Volunteering Victoria significantly expanded its training program to meet growing demand, delivering workshops across a diverse range of topics.

Alongside Volunteering Victoria's [regular training](#) offerings, a range of specialist sessions equipped leaders of volunteers with practical knowledge and strategies to respond to emerging challenges in volunteer engagement.

All workshops were offered free of charge through VMA funding, helping ensure professional development remained accessible to organisations across Victoria.

Topics delivered by external experts:

- AI for Not-for-Profits (*via Infoxchange*)
- Connecting Communities with Anti-Racism Support (*via Victoria University*)
- Cybersecurity: Protect Yourself From Scams (*via Infoxchange*)
- Impact Measurement for Volunteer Managers (*via Social Impact Hub*)
- Outcomes and Indicators Workshop (*via Social Impact Hub*)
- Plain and Easy Language (*via Centre for Accessibility Australia*)
- Preventing Burnout and Enhancing Wellbeing (*via Swagata Bapat Consulting*)

- Understanding Grants and Grant Writing (*via Cochrane Research Solutions*)
- Understanding Your Audience (*via Hootville Communications*)
- Using AI Ethically and Responsibly (*via Infoxchange*)
- Writing Winning Grant Applications (*via Ignite Community*)

Topics delivered by sector partners:

- Diversity and Inclusion (*via South East Volunteers*)
- How Data Can Improve Volunteer Engagement (*via Ballarat Foundation*)
- Legal Issues in Managing a Diverse Team (*via Justice Connect*)
- Meaningful & Able: Inclusive Recruitment Through Co-Design (*via Omnia Community Health*)
- Permission Not Required: From Experts to Influence (*via Tracey O'Neill Consulting*)
- Practical Tips for Developing a Volunteer Impact Report (*via Oxfam*)
- Social Media and the Law (*via Justice Connect*)
- Top Legal Issues in Managing Volunteers (*via Justice Connect*)
- Standard Mental Health First Aid (*via South East Volunteers*)
- Strengthen Your Workplace - Disability Inclusion Modules (*via EV Strengthening Communities*)
- Volunteer Safety (*via Justice Connect*)

“[The trainer] is real, genuine and offers relevant and insight information needed to continue my best work in my role.”

“Loved the training... [The trainer] is always incredible and informative in an engaging way in her trainings.”

“It was most beneficial sharing with other participants in a structured way. The engaging presenter style oriented us well, and created motivation and encouragement.”

Special Interest Groups

FY25-26 OVERVIEW

8

sessions held

215

attendees

187

organisations represented

Volunteering Victoria runs special interest groups with a professional development component.

This is an opportunity for volunteer managers to come together to:

- discuss emerging issues in the sector across a range of topics, and;
- expand their professional networks.

100%

of participants reported the sessions as being 'helpful' or 'very helpful'.

Inclusive Volunteering

Supporting the inclusion of all Victorians into volunteering.

Topics covered:

- Supporting people with disability to volunteer
- Working with specialist schools
- Baptcare's journey with diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging
- Working with First Nations communities

Top benefits:



Connecting and learning from others in similar roles



Hearing from experts and learning from lived experience



Gaining practical ideas and learnings to implement

Leadership in Volunteering

Supporting the interests and advancement of volunteer managers and leaders.

Topics covered:

- Strategies for increasing volunteer participation
- Supporting change to drive more inclusive volunteering
- From classrooms to communities – Youth taking the lead
- Collaborating with volunteers for greater impact

“My main learning was understanding how to increase accessibility – and therefore higher inclusivity – in our volunteer program.”

“The breakout sessions with other leaders of volunteers were most beneficial for hashing through problems shared by others.”

“I was inspired to hear from speakers that had been able to implement new programs.”