



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State peak for volunteering welcomes Active Victoria framework

Volunteering Victoria welcomes the Victorian Government's release of *Active Victoria – A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017-2021* (<http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/strategies/active-victoria-strategic-framework-sport-and-recreation>).

Well over half a million Victorians volunteer to sustain organisations which enable sport and recreation to thrive in the State. This volunteer workforce underpins 3.9 million Victorians, aged 15 years and over who participate in sport or active recreation at least once a week.

The sport and active recreation sector contributes \$8.5 billion to the state economy annually and supports an estimated 75,000 jobs.

The Victorian Government should be commended for its commitment to gender and multicultural diversity. The Active Victoria Strategic Framework outlines strategies to broaden inclusive participation including training support for staff and volunteers to establish safe and inclusive spaces, mitigate unconscious bias, and mandated gender balance and good governance principles across sport and active recreation organisations.

Whilst the strategic framework provides a strong foundation for the sector to move forward, Volunteering Victoria has identified opportunities for further development, including actively developing a larger pool of skilled volunteers and investing in the leadership and management of volunteers.

More support to build formalised frameworks for the leadership and management of volunteers would empower sporting clubs to recruit new volunteers in a way that identifies and fills required skills gaps.

The demand for volunteers continues to grow, but is not matched by genuine, substantive support for volunteering, especially for volunteer management and the infrastructure that supports volunteering.

Given the significant role volunteering plays in the sport and recreation sector, Volunteering Victoria looks forward to working with government to further strengthen the role of volunteering in the sector.

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About Volunteering Victoria

Volunteering Victoria is the state peak body for volunteering. Our vision is for resilient communities and empowered and active citizens through volunteering. Through our dynamic and transformative leadership, we work to promote and build a vibrant, prosperous and strong volunteering community that is inclusive, respected and sustainable. Volunteering Victoria is a member-based organisation, supported by a dedicated and highly professional team of staff and volunteers. From broad sectors, such as social services, health, sport, culture, emergency services and local government, our membership reflects the diversity of people and organisations that work with and support volunteers in our community.