

Media Release

Thursday 11 January 2018



100 years from now...

In response to Catherine Walsh's article 'Volunteering doesn't make the world a better place' in the Age 5 January 2018.

Volunteering Victoria represents more than 360 organisations who deliver hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteering activity delivered by thousands of Victorians. Volunteers make an incredible difference – sometimes out of necessity, sometimes to solve a problem, often simply because they believe helping others is the right thing to do.

Volunteering Victoria agrees with Catherine Walsh in that we also do not see a world in which public services are cut and it is assumed that volunteers will fill in the gaps without proper resourcing. We also support the powerful work volunteers undertake as 'active citizens', advocating to fix things when they are broken. In fact, there may be no better champions of change than volunteers.

However, Volunteering Victoria sees a future where volunteering is valued not because it is similar to paid work but because of its essential, complementary difference.

We see a future where everyone respects the integrity and spirit of volunteering because 'the common good' nurtures us all.

We see a future where volunteering teaches fundamental community principles and the discovery of its ethos is a journey all Australians want to take.

We see a future where the work is done, the animals are rescued, the oceans are cleaner and grieving people are supported, in part because of volunteering.

We see a future of connected and thriving communities where everyone contributes voluntarily because they can and because they freely choose to.

We see a future where volunteering is valued for its economic contribution to society and as a pathway to employment.

We see a future where business leaders, health and wellbeing practitioners, researchers, politicians, and community leaders all recognise the value of volunteering for the enduring benefits it delivers.

Media Release

Thursday 11 January 2018



We see a future where the word 'volunteer' is clearly understood and generously in use in every language and not hidden or diminished in our lexicon by misperceptions, stereotypes and myths.

We see a future when the 'whatever it will be' generation of 2120 looks back at history and marvels of what we were so incapable of appreciating in our time.

We see a future where 100% of Australians experience volunteering at least once in their lifetime.

Say 'yes' to volunteering – it's good for your heart, your soul, your humanity. And it's good for our community, our economy, and our planet.

Roz Wollmering
Interim CEO
Volunteering Victoria

For all enquiries, please contact

Roz Wollmering, Interim CEO
r.wollmering@volunteeringvictoria.org.au / (03) 8327 8507

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.