**Role:** Dog Walking Volunteer

**Reports to:** VolunteerDog Walking Coordinator

**Department/Unit overview:** This program is part of Aged & Disability Volunteer Services.

**Purpose:** The Dog Walking Program is offered to eligible Wyndham residents as a service to walk their dogs. Primarily the dog walking program is a service to dog owners who are unable to walk their dog because of age, impairment or disability. All dogs are pre‐screened and assessed by Wyndham’s Legislative Services as suitable before being accepted into the program. The program utilises the services of volunteers who have been suitably trained to walk dogs. The position requires a volunteer to walk a pre-registered pet dog[[1]](#footnote-1) that has been inducted into the program, within the municipality, at agreed times with the owner of that dog.

**Key Responsibilities and Duties:**

* To liaise and communicate with the dog owner on a regular basis
* To take responsibility for the dog, whist walking within the scope of the training
* To maintain equipment issued to perform the tasks and follow incident report processes as per the training
* To inform the dog walking program supervisor of any changes, problems or recommendations in relation to the program or as a Council Volunteer
* Clean up after the dog with equipment provided
* Make a decision as to whether the conditions in the environment are appropriate to conduct the service
* Make a decision as to whether a dog is in reasonable health and take steps to either not walk the dog or cease walking the dog and follow the procedure for this incident
* Abide by council policy and procedures

**Desired Attributes:**

* Must be able to make decisions around any safety issues whilst walking the dog (either for the dog or themselves) and follow procedures
* Experience handling dogs, especially in public places
* Empathy for older adults and/or people with disabilities
* Experience owning dogs and an understanding of health and canine behaviour and temperament
* Ability to confidently communicate with others
* An ability to manage one’s time and adhere to agreed plans with the owners of the dogs
* Ability to gain co-operation from others to achieve a mutually beneficial relationship
* History of dog ownership

**Length of Appointment:** Volunteers are subject to a probationary period of 3 months. The role is ongoing and will be reviewed annually

**Police Check:** A police check application will be lodged once a volunteer has been accepted into a program and will be completed every 3 years. There is no cost to the volunteer

**Working with Children Check:** If you volunteer in a program with children, you will need a current Working with Children Check (WWCC) before you commence your volunteer role

**Support:** Training will be provided for this role

**Dress Code:** Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Some uniform is provided.

**Signed: ............................................................................................. Date: ..../..../.........**

**Name: ......................................................................................................................................**

**Parent/Guardian Name: .......................................................................................................**

**Signed: ............................................................................................. Date: ..../..../.........**

1. Volunteers must not bring their own dogs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)