

Frequently asked questions about volunteering

1. Why volunteer?

Volunteering is a fun and easy way to explore your interests and passions. As a volunteer you can make a significant contribution to various areas of community life.

2. Who can become a volunteer?

Anyone can - Volunteers come from all walks of life.

3. If I volunteer, will this help me to get paid employment?

Volunteering is a great way to demonstrate your skills or to learn new skills, which can be attractive to a future employer. Being a volunteer can lead to but does not guarantee paid employment.

4. How much time do I commit as a volunteer?

This is a personal decision and will depend on how much time you can spare. Volunteering roles can range from short-term and one-off projects to long-term or ongoing roles. They might require a few hours a month or a few hours or more a week – this is a mutual negotiation.

5. Will I need a police check?

All volunteers recruited for council programs are required to undergo a police check. You will not incur a cost for this.



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(PO Box 197) Werribee, Vic 3030

Phone: 9742 0777

Fax: 9741 6237

Email: volunteers@wyndham.vic.gov.au



www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/volunteering



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Volunteering in Wyndham



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Volunteering in Wyndham

Volunteers are an integral part of the Wyndham community.

Volunteering connects and empowers communities and provides opportunities for residents to become active in their community.

Wyndham City believes that volunteers are a key resource for our community and acknowledges the importance of volunteering in developing a diverse, cohesive and sustainable community.

What is volunteering?

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.

Volunteering should be:

- of benefit to the community and the volunteer;
- For no financial payment;
- To complement but not replace, substitute or threaten the activities of paid staff;
- Through a not-for-profit organisation or project;
- Of the volunteer's own free will and without coercion;
- In designated volunteer positions only.

Benefits of volunteering – to you

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in activities and programs that make a real difference to your local community. Through meaningful and interesting volunteer roles you can experience renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life.

People volunteer for many different reasons including to:

- learn new or use existing skills
- gain experience
- reduce social isolation or boredom
- help others

Benefits of volunteering – to the community

Volunteers connect closely with local communities to help build vibrant places to live, work and play.

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community by:

- strengthening community connections and belonging
- extending and expanding services
- improving community health and well being

Choosing a volunteering role

There are many different volunteer experiences available within Wyndham City and within the broader community. The key to choosing the right volunteering role is to find a volunteer position that you would enjoy and are capable of doing.

To help you to decide, consider the following questions:

- Would you like to work with people?
- How much time are you willing to commit?
- How much responsibility are you ready to take on?
- What skills can you build on or bring to a volunteer role?

What do volunteers do?

Volunteering is a very dynamic field. There are endless volunteering opportunities to take part in and many different types of volunteering you can be involved in.

As a volunteer you can provide older people with companionship, deliver meals, sit on a board or committee, plant trees, help at an information desk, drive a bus, walk dogs, make phone calls to socially isolated people, work with early years or youth, design a web page, provide administration support, work in an opportunity shop, provide activity support, help with sports or even work with new arrivals and refugees in learning English. The list is endless!

Getting started

Looking for a role is simple.

The easiest way to find volunteer opportunities is to look for a suitable volunteer role online through the web, or you can contact the organisation of interest directly and speak to the Volunteer Recruitment Officer or Coordinator.

You may even like to create your own volunteer profile by registering with Volunteering Australia and receive email alerts on roles tailored to you – www.volunteer.org.au

The following are some web sites that can be explored to source the right volunteering opportunity:

- www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/volunteering
- www.govolunteer.com.au
- www.probonoaustralia.com.au
- www.goodcompany.com.au
- www.volunteerwest.org.au

Volunteer recruitment processes vary from organisation to organisation, but the volunteer recruitment journey may also include the following steps:

- Submit a completed volunteer application form
- Attend an interview
- Complete an induction to the organisation and / or volunteering
- Undergo a police check, referee checks and if applicable, a Working with Children Check

