

Safeguarding Volunteering Project

Volunteering Tasmania (VT) have been working with three local councils, Clarence, Huon Valley and Devonport as part of the Safeguarding Volunteering Project. Funded by the State Government, the project focuses on supporting local councils to develop a community-based Volunteer Sustainability Strategy/Framework. The framework will look at how we can prepare for a strong volunteer community in the future.

Why do we need to safeguarding volunteering in our communities?

Volunteering is the largest sector in Tasmania and is a key driver of economic, social and cultural growth. We know how much local communities depend on people 'lending a hand' locally. Volunteers help our local children, our environments, they provide support during a crisis and they look after our people – we need them in our communities.



However, the research tells us:

- There are declining numbers of volunteers in Tasmania
- Overall, the number of hours being volunteered has declined
- The way volunteers want to contribute is shifting
- There is an increased demand for volunteers ranging from welfare/community, sport, emergency services, tourism, arts and heritage. Evidence indicates that in the future there will be insufficient volunteers to meet demand.



there has been a
11.2% decline
in participation
in volunteering
in the past 5 years.

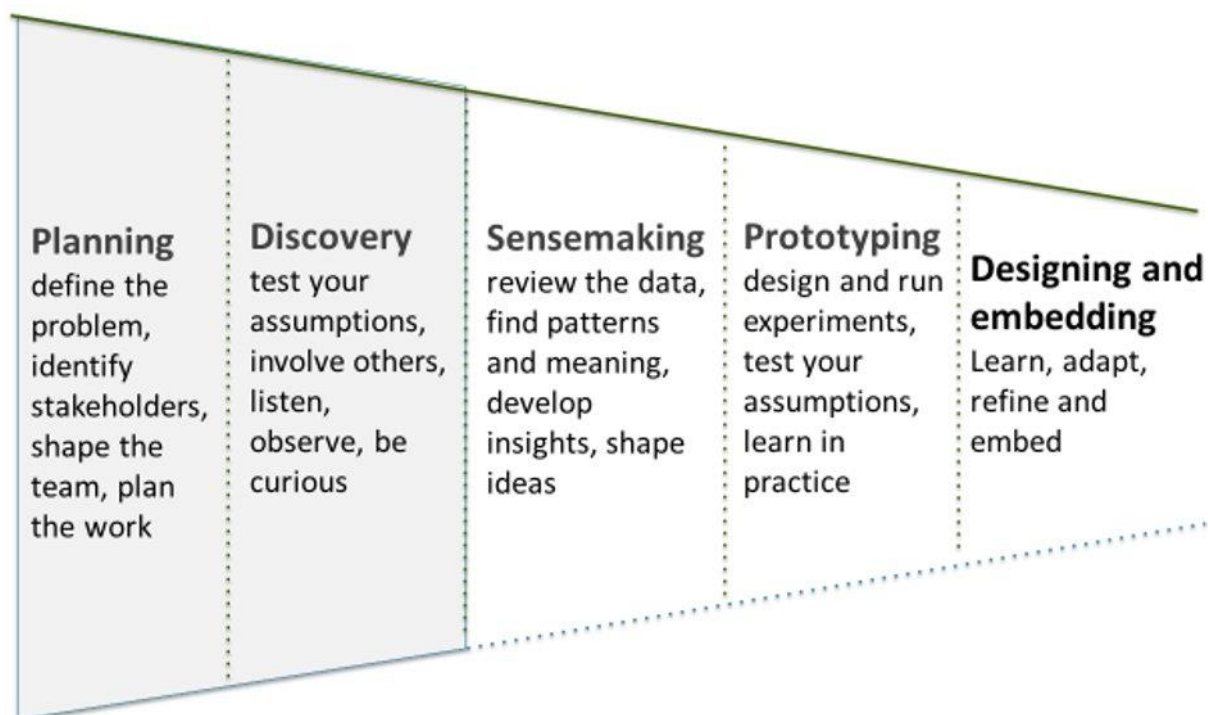
These are all things we need to consider, understand and prepare for in the local volunteer strategies.

What will the Safeguarding Project do?

Volunteering Tasmania are working closely with Devonport, Clarence and Huon Valley Councils and their communities to identify the challenges and needs for volunteer sustainability locally, and together we will build a community-based strategy that plans and prepares for a strong volunteer community.

What will the Local Volunteer Network Group do?

For the local community strategy to work it needs to be built by the people who will use it and be impacted by it. Volunteer Tasmania, each local council and a group of local people will work together over the next 6 months to build this using a co-design framework. The co-design framework follows the below stages.



Co-design is about community-led change. It makes sure that local people are the decision makers and helps to build community momentum and change across the region. This will help us to make sure the strategy is relevant and useful for your community when safeguarding local volunteering.