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Volunteering recognised in national wellbeing framework

Volunteering Tasmania celebrates the news that voluntary work has been included as a metric of wellbeing in the national [Measuring What Matters Statement](#). This is Australia's first wellbeing framework. It will better align economic and social goals across the country, will track wellbeing outcomes and guide the allocation of spending.

Volunteering Tasmania CEO Shirleyann Varney says this is a significant development.

"For the last 10 months, Volunteering Tasmania has been engaged in advocacy work, alongside Volunteering Australia and the state and territory volunteering peak bodies, to see voluntary work included in wellbeing policy.

"This is deserved recognition for the vital role volunteering plays in enhancing wellbeing, both individually and collectively."

Despite Tasmania's strong volunteering culture, formal volunteer participation has been in decline. It is estimated that without significant strategic intervention and investment in the systems that support volunteering, that by 2029, there will be a 42 per cent gap between the demand for and supply of volunteers in Tasmania.

"Every day we are privileged to hear stories about the real and life changing impacts that volunteering has had upon the lives of Tasmanians," said Ms Varney, "yet we are also confronted with the realities of a declining volunteer workforce and the significant wellbeing implications this will present across the state.

"COVID-19 gave us a glimpse into a world with fewer volunteers. It revealed significant systems gaps, a concerning dependence on volunteers to deliver wellbeing supports to the community and a need to invest in the systems that support both formal and informal volunteering.

"By enabling the consistent measurement and evaluation of volunteering through this framework, policy makers will be able to form a greater basis for strategic action and investment in Tasmania's economic, social and environmental well-being," said Ms Varney.

Tasmania stands to benefit from a national wellbeing framework and metrics which highlight volunteering as crucial to individual, collective, and national wellbeing. Identifying voluntary work as a wellbeing metric raises the profile of volunteering within the Tasmanian policy context and highlights Tasmanians' demonstration of active citizenship through volunteering.

Read the [Volunteering Tasmania Measuring What Matters briefing paper](#).

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Media enquiries

Dawn Green – Communications and marketing coordinator (Workdays: Mon-Thurs)

Phone: 0423 304 966

Email: dawng@volunteeringtas.org.au