

Founders and Lifetime Members



Helene Whitehead

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Helene is a founding member of Volunteering Tasmania which emanated out of her desire to see a dedicated place where volunteers could be supported and trained across the state. Working as a Family Support Worker in the late 80s Helene engaged volunteers to work alongside her in delivering care to clients. With her colleagues from a number of other community based organisations, she became acutely aware of the importance of volunteers to the Tasmanian community and the need to put in place formalised induction and training programs to ensure they remained supported and engaged in their work. Being dedicated to the retention of volunteers Helene and her contemporaries started lobbying for funding from the Commonwealth Government to achieve a dedicated place for volunteers to be supported and this became a reality in 1994. Her involvement with the organisation from the early years witnessed her in many roles including being President, Vice President and now a valued fundraiser.

As a young girl she was introduced to volunteering when she typed the church newsletter at her parent’s request. This was followed by work with the Red Cross Blood Bank and then Lifelink in 1975. Her long association with Lifelink continues today through volunteering with the telephone crisis line. Adaptable in many situations with an enthusiastic and curious disposition Helene has always gone looking to understand what is going on and how she can contribute. Her very practical administrative skills in record keeping, note taking and reporting have helped many organisations to keep their business tidy, something she sees as very much required in community organisations who have volunteers. Helene encourages others to consider volunteering because “it gives people the privileged opportunity to continually learn new things, develop great friendships and develop humility from helping others”.