



Concerns for the Future

Volunteering in Tasmania

Across Australia, changes in societal demands and expectations, technological advances and regulations all impact the ways we choose to volunteer. In Tasmania, we're also seeing changes in what volunteers are needed for and how people want to volunteer. This fact sheet outlines the impacts of these changes on the future of volunteering in our state.

Declining rates of volunteering

While Tasmanian volunteers continue to make impressive contributions to their communities, we are seeing an overall decline in the amount of volunteering being done.

Between 2014-19, there was an 11.2% decline in volunteering rates. If this continues, by 2029 Tasmania will need 42% more volunteers than are available.¹ In other words, demand for volunteers will outstrip supply.

There has also been a 3.9% decrease in the number of hours Tasmanians are dedicating to volunteering.

2014 **79.8%**

of tasmanians
15 years and
older volunteered

2019 **68.6%**

of tasmanians
15 years and
older volunteer



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

¹ LGA Profiles



Barriers to volunteering



When Tasmanians were asked about the things that discourage them from giving their time, the top three challenges they named were: limited time, work commitments, and family commitments. We need to understand these challenges more and consider how volunteer roles can be changed so they are suitable for people who have busy lives and juggle competing priorities.

In 2019, when volunteers were asked if their volunteering positively or negatively impacted on their work life, there was a substantial decline in positive impacts and increase in negative impacts towards their work productivity.

24% of people who weren't volunteering in 2019 said they hadn't been asked to volunteer and that they felt there wasn't enough information available about how they could get involved with volunteer activities.

How volunteering is changing in Tasmania

- ❑ An increasing number of Tasmanians are volunteering online and internationally.²
- ❑ Improved safety considerations and 'best practice' requirements place changed expectations on volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations.³
- ❑ New generations of volunteers are looking for more flexibility to work volunteering around their busy lives and are less likely to commit to long-term volunteering with an organisation.⁴
- ❑ Demand for volunteers is shifting away from sport and recreation groups to the community and welfare sectors.⁵
- ❑ The increasing frequency of natural disasters requires a ready supply of skilled emergency volunteers.
- ❑ New generations are being driven to make a difference and help organisations achieve their missions. They are purpose driven and socially conscious.⁶

If you would like to read more about the profile and demographics of volunteering in Tasmania, please refer to the following reports and research:

- State of Volunteering Report 2019
- Environmental Scan
- Essential Services Delivered by Volunteers

² Volunteering Tasmania, State of Volunteering Report 2019.

³ https://volunteeringqld.org.au/docs/Using_Volunteering_Infra_to_Build_Civil_Society.pdf

⁴ https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/youth_volunteering_evidence_review_0.pdf

⁵ LGA profile

⁶ https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/youth_volunteering_evidence_review_0.pdf