ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

volunteeringtas.org.au









volunteering TASMANIA

Volunteering Tasmania acknowledges the Palawa as traditional custodians of the lands, seas, skies, and waterways throughout Lutruwita/Tasmania. We recognise their deep history and continuing connections with Country, culture, and community and pay respect to Elders past and present.

As the peak body for volunteering in Lutruwita/Tasmania, we are committed to working towards an inclusive and accessible volunteering industry and growing our cultural competency and understanding of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

We express our hope that by working together and deepening our understanding, we can move to a more equitable and just society.

We will create connections with Tasmanian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and provide culturally safe information and opportunities that support self-determination.

Artwork below: Created by Caleb Nichols-Mansell.



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2025 Awards (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).



Sarah Wilcox Chair



Mel Blake CEO

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CHAIR AND CEO

The 2025-26 year was a standout chapter for volunteering in Tasmania. Together, we celebrated major advocacy wins, strengthened industry-wide collaboration, and achieved new milestones in recognising volunteers. This year truly highlighted the strength, resilience and positive impact of Tasmania's volunteering community.

Advocacy was at the heart of everything we did this year. A highlight was the launch of the two-year pilot to remove Registration to Work with Vulnerable People fees for volunteers. This long-awaited change removes a key barrier to participation and demonstrates the real difference sustained advocacy can make for volunteers and the organisations they support. We remain committed to championing measures that open doors to volunteering and help organisations welcome and support volunteers safely and effectively.

We continued to champion the needs of the volunteering industry by working closely with government and collaborating with the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Service Peaks, Volunteering Australia, and our counterparts across the country. By joining forces at both state and national levels, we strengthened our voice and our ability to advocate for Government policy, investment and initiatives that help volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations thrive. Our efforts focused on recognising volunteering as essential community infrastructure and on providing organisations with the resources, support and policy environment they need.

This year, we celebrated the launch of Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy, an important step towards strengthening and supporting volunteering across our state. We were proud to contribute to its development and to continue working with the Tasmanian Government on the Action Plan. Together, we are helping to keep volunteering vibrant, inclusive and sustainable for future generations.

Bringing people together to connect, learn and collaborate was a key focus for us. The 2026 Future of Volunteering Symposium brought together volunteer leaders, organisations, researchers and community partners to explore emerging trends, share ideas and discuss practical

> Bringing people together to connect, learn and collaborate was a key focus for us.

ways to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

These conversations highlighted the value of innovation, partnership and collaboration in shaping the future of volunteering in Tasmania. We were also pleased to attend the 2026 National Volunteering Conference in Adelaide, where we connected with volunteer leaders, practitioners, researchers and policymakers from across Australia. Thanks to scholarships from the Department of Social Services, we enabled Tasmanian volunteer leaders to attend, creating valuable opportunities to learn together, share local perspectives and build stronger connections with national peers.

National Volunteer Week 2026, themed Your Year to Volunteer, shone a light on the many ways people can give back to their communities through volunteering. This year also marked the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, offering a wonderful opportunity to celebrate how volunteers help build stronger, more connected and sustainable communities.

Recognising and celebrating volunteers remains one of the most rewarding aspects of our work. In September 2025, we were proud to host the 10th annual Tasmanian Volunteering Awards Ceremony, marking a significant milestone in the history of volunteer recognition in Tasmania. The Awards Ceremony brought together volunteers, volunteer leaders, organisations, government representatives and community members to celebrate the extraordinary contributions volunteers make across our state. It was a privilege to recognise the individuals and organisations whose dedication, leadership and generosity strengthen communities every day.



Delegates at the Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

> Even in the face of economic pressures and community challenges, Tasmania's volunteering industry has shown outstanding resilience and adaptability.

The 2025 Awards also offered a special opportunity to honour the late Stephen Mattingley by presenting an Enduring Contribution Award. After several posthumous nominations, the Awards Panel recognised Stephen's exceptional legacy of volunteering and the lasting impact he had on the people, organisations and communities he served. His recognition was a moving reminder of the enduring difference volunteers can make, and the legacy volunteering can leave for generations to come.

During National Volunteer Week 2026, we were also proud to participate in the inaugural Australian Volunteer of the Year Awards. We thank and acknowledge Christine Chilcott, our 2025 Premier's Volunteer of the Year, for showcasing the strength of Tasmania's volunteer community on the national stage. We congratulate Dr Felix Ho ASM OAM from the Northern Territory, named the 2026 Australian Volunteer of the Year. Together, these celebrations highlighted the profound impact volunteers have in enriching lives and building stronger communities across Tasmania and Australia.

Even in the face of economic pressures and community challenges, Tasmania's volunteering industry has shown outstanding resilience and adaptability. Across every region, volunteers continue to give their time, skills and energy to support others, strengthen communities and enrich lives. Their contribution is truly one of Tasmania's greatest strengths.

While inspiring, we know that sustaining this level of participation will require ongoing investment. Declining formal volunteering rates and growing demands on volunteer-involving organisations highlight the need for continued support, capability building and investment in the infrastructure that enables volunteering. By monitoring these trends and responding proactively, we can help strengthen and sustain volunteering. It is vital that we continue to highlight the economic, social and wellbeing benefits volunteers bring, as their contributions are at the heart of strong, resilient and connected communities across Tasmania.

After our 2025 Annual General Meeting, we were delighted to welcome Oanh Do, Thomas Roberts and Jesse Usoalii to our Board, with Oanh taking on the role of Treasurer. We are excited for the experience, insights and expertise they bring to our organisation. At the same time, we farewelled Director and Treasurer Chris Brookwell, whose leadership, commitment and stewardship have made a lasting difference to Volunteering Tasmania. We thank Chris sincerely for his service and are grateful that he is supporting us for a further 12 months as an Advisor to the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and as a mentor to our new Treasurer.

Everything we achieved this year was made possible by the dedication and support of our funders, members, partners, Board and team. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment

to advancing volunteering and supporting meaningful community participation across Tasmania.

Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the opportunities before us. Together, we will continue to advocate for the volunteers and organisations who make such a vital difference in our communities as we work towards our vision of an inclusive, thriving and celebrated culture of community participation.

Sarah Wilcox
Volunteering Tasmania Chair

Mel Blake
Volunteering Tasmania Chief Executive Officer



Recognising outstanding contributions at the 2025 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).

WHO WE ARE

Volunteering Tasmania is the peak body for volunteering in Tasmania.

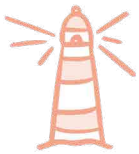
We exist to ensure community-based volunteering is sustainable, valued, and integral to community resilience and wellbeing.

We are purposeful and passionate about building a thriving and resilient Tasmania through volunteering.

We provide a range of specialised services and support to volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations.

We specialise in contemporary and innovative approaches to support and strengthen the Tasmanian volunteering industry.

We hold leaders accountable for making systemic changes that strengthen the volunteer ecosystem.



Our Vision

An inclusive, thriving, and celebrated culture of community participation.



Our Purpose

To strengthen and enhance volunteering through leadership, education, and connection.

Creating positive change through our values:

- **Inclusion:** We foster a culture of belonging.
- **Integrity:** We act with purpose, accountability, and transparency.
- **Connection:** We engage and collaborate with curiosity and intent.

Our 2023-2028 Strategic Priorities



Membership: We will grow our membership across the state, identify and support their needs.



Impact: We will have impact and influence through education and promoting the positive impact of volunteering.



Sustainability: We are committed to being an innovative, contemporary, and accountable peak body.



Advocacy: We will work with our stakeholders to advocate for volunteering and greater recognition of the sector.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our funders:

The Australian Government

- Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Department of Social Services

The Tasmanian Government

- Department of Health
- Department of Premier and Cabinet

Volunteering ACT

Your support helps us achieve our vision and purpose.

HIGHLIGHTS:
THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



Membership

197 members.

19,215 volunteers supported through membership.*

Supported members to celebrate **3,186 volunteers** with Volunteer Recognition Certificates.

*note: not reported from all members.



Advocacy

13 submissions to state and federal governments.

34 government engagements, including:

- **22** meetings with parliamentarians and agencies.
- Participation in **12** government stakeholder forums.

Government commenced the two-year Registration to Work with Vulnerable People fee waiver pilot for volunteers.

Supported the launch of the Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy and ongoing development of the first Action Plan.



Reach

145,762 website views.

2,688 eNews subscribers.

121,800 socials reach on Meta channels.

4,912 socials followers.

Impact

Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

Received almost **200** Tasmanian Volunteering Awards nominations.

Hosted **127** delegates at the Future of Volunteering Symposium.

18 sector development workshops, delivered to **439** participants.

57 events and network meetings attended, engaging with **1,814** people to promote volunteering.

8 participants enrolled in the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program.

2,999 online resource downloads.

101 individuals supported through the Volunteer Connect Service.

424 volunteering opportunities advertised through the Volunteer Connect platform (VIKTOR).

36 participants and **66** organisations supported through the Inclusive Volunteering Program (IVP).

18 Introduction to Volunteering sessions delivered to **317** potential volunteers.

Sustainability

Strengthened Volunteering Tasmania's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework with a new Ethical Partnership Policy and Modern Slavery Statement.

Implemented Volunteering Tasmania's new Membership Engagement Strategy.

Moved offices to co-locate with Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania.

Conducted an External Board Review.

Secured Tasmanian Community Fund grant to commence from 1 July 2026.

Grew our Corporate Volunteering Program.

132 hours of employee volunteering leave utilised by the VT team.

660 volunteer hours contributed by the VT Board.

163 volunteer hours contributed by VT volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP

We will grow our membership across the state, identify and support their needs.

Members remain at the heart of Volunteering Tasmania's work. As the peak body for volunteering in Tasmania, we represent and respond to the diverse needs, experiences and priorities of volunteer-involving organisations across the state. Through ongoing engagement with our members, we strengthen our understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the industry, ensuring our advocacy, programs and services remain relevant and impactful.

Growing and Strengthening Our Membership

This year, VT:

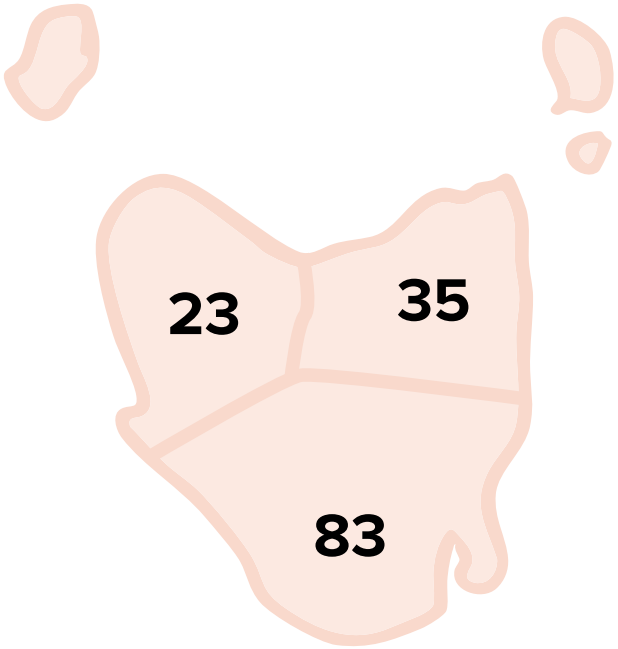
- Introduced more accessible and flexible membership options to better meet the needs of individuals and organisations across the volunteering industry.
- Celebrated member achievements and impact through Member Spotlight stories and targeted engagement activities.
- Continued to expand and strengthen our membership base, welcoming new members and deepening relationships with existing members.

To support this, we progressed the development of a new Membership Engagement Strategy, designed to enhance member value, increase participation and strengthen industry-wide representation. In December 2025, we introduced a range of membership improvements to increase accessibility and better reflect the diversity of Tasmania's volunteering industry. These included a pro-rata membership rate for the remainder of the financial year, reducing the cost of joining or renewing, as well as the introduction of two new organisational membership categories: Extra Small for not-for-profit organisations with an annual turnover under $100,000, and Extra Large for organisations with an annual turnover above $5 million.



Sharon and Sue from the VT team welcoming delegates to the Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

Overview of membership



Statewide 56

197 members

19,215 volunteers supported through membership*

***note: not reported from all members**

Volunteering Tasmania's membership represents the following industries:

- **Community or Ethnic Groups** 22
- **Health/Welfare** 15
- Government 3
- **Disability Services** 7
- **Parenting, Children and Youth** 8
- **Mental Health** 7
- Council 3
- Emergency services 2
- **Education / Training** 13
- Sports and Physical Recreation 5
- Environmental/ Animal Welfare 5
- Law/Justice/Political 2
- International Aid/ Development 1
- Religious 1
- Emotional support and financial assistance for widows and children of deceased ex-service personnel 1

Member Spotlights: sharing volunteering stories and promoting opportunities

Throughout the year we celebrated member successes through regular Member Spotlight features, showcasing the diversity and strength of volunteering across Tasmania. Stories from organisations including Council on the Ageing (COTA) Tasmania, Australian Red Cross, Okines Community House, Launceston Volunteers for Community and Girl Guides Tasmania highlighted the transformational impact of volunteering on individuals and communities.

Member Spotlights are featured in our eNews and shared with 2,688 subscribers.

Okines Community House

Okines Community House welcomes people living in the Southern Beaches area including Forcett, Lewisham, Dodges Ferry, Carlton, Carlton River, Connellys Marsh and Primrose Sands.

The aim of the House is to provide a safe and friendly environment for the whole community to meet, share information and resources and strengthen community networks. They offer a huge range of community support services, as well as operating the Bike Shed, Dodges Ferry Film Society, Food Co-op and Community Garden!

Volunteers like Gaylene are at the heart of delivering these community services.

Volunteer testimonial

I had a change of life in my early 60's and needed to find something to make me feel good about myself again. I knew there were opportunities at Okines Community House for me to explore. I decided to volunteer my time in the beautiful community garden, the food co-op and the food assistance program.

I love the way Okines Community House have lots of weekly programs that encourage people to get involved in things they enjoy. These programs bring us together to form new friendships and gain new skills. The office door is always open for people to drop in and be supported when needed.

"The benefits I have gained in the 17 months of volunteering here can be seen as self-growth."

The best thing about volunteering at Okines is meeting wonderful supportive people. I feel like I am more involved in the community by giving my time freely for the benefit of others. The community garden is a place of healing. I have regained my sense of self through being able to express my creativity in the areas of the garden I have helped transform. I'm glad I took the initiative to sign up as a volunteer at Okines Community House.



Gaylene at the Food Co-op.

Member Benefits in Action

Membership with VT provides organisations and individuals with opportunities to inform advocacy, access discounted training and connect with peers across the industry. Members also have exclusive access to Volunteer Recognition Certificates and our Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program.

Volunteer Recognition Certificates

Ahead of National Volunteer Week in May 2026, we supported members to celebrate 3,186 volunteers with Volunteer Recognition Certificates. Organisations received personalised digital certificates to award their volunteers in appreciation of their efforts throughout the year.

Contributing to government submissions and policy recommendations

We keep members informed about emerging issues, policy developments and opportunities to contribute to advocacy throughout the year through direct engagement and our monthly eNews. Policy and advocacy updates highlight consultations, industry developments and key discussions impacting volunteering, while inviting members to share their insights and experiences to help shape our advocacy work. Some of our members have been involved with us in launches of key government initiatives such as the Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy and the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People volunteer fee removal pilot.



Delegates at the Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

Continuous Professional Development Program

VT's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program supports Professional Leaders of Volunteers to build their skills, knowledge and networks through a dedicated year-long learning experience. Exclusive to VT members, the 12-month program offers two places annually to each organisational member, creating opportunities for volunteer managers and coordinators to strengthen their practice and leadership capabilities.Participants benefit from access to professional development resources, workshops, networking opportunities and a supportive community of peers committed to advancing volunteer engagement across Tasmania. The program fosters ongoing learning, connection and the sharing of ideas, helping participants respond to emerging trends and challenges in volunteer leadership.

As part of the program, this year some participants also contributed to our Future of Volunteering Symposium, sharing insights and experiences through a CPD participant panel. The session provided an opportunity to reflect on learning journeys, discuss contemporary volunteering practice and inspire fellow leaders across the industry.

continuous professional development
PROGRAM 2025

1 CPD point







The CPD program showcased in videos on VT's website.



CPD participants Carolyn, Vanessa and Kate discussing the art of leading volunteers from the heart, at the Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

Participant perspectives:

Throughout the CPD program, I developed a greater understanding of the importance of strategic volunteer leadership and the need to align volunteer involvement with organisational goals.

The program encouraged me to think beyond simply recruiting volunteers and instead focus on how volunteer involvement can be planned to maximise positive outcomes for both the organisation and the volunteers themselves.

Being part of the program has been wonderful. I found the information and sharing of knowledge incredibly useful.

I have really enjoyed being part of the CPD so far and have learnt so much from everyone. It's been very valuable.

Sector Development Training

Supporting members to strengthen volunteer management practice remained a key focus throughout the year. VT conducted 18 sector development workshops, engaging 439 participants. We delivered a range of training and professional development opportunities covering legal issues, volunteer safety, child and youth-safe volunteering, Aboriginal cultural safety, cybersecurity, youth-friendly volunteering, and the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.

Hosting corporate volunteering

Corporate volunteering continued to emerge as an important pathway for community participation. Through partnerships between businesses and community organisations, employees contributed their time, skills and expertise to initiatives that strengthened communities while enhancing teamwork, wellbeing and workplace culture.

Building on the foundations established in the previous year, we continued to strengthen our Corporate Volunteering Program through our partnership with Rio Tinto Bell Bay Aluminium, a committed corporate volunteering partner. Together, we created opportunities for employees to engage in meaningful volunteering experiences while supporting volunteer-involving organisations and community initiatives across Tasmania.

Read one of our stories below and more on our new Corporate Volunteering webpage: **https://volunteeringtas.org.au/corporate-volunteering/**



Attendees at a VT Connection Forum.

East Tamar Landcare

After securing the required funding, the corporate volunteer groups provided much-needed labour and practical assistance in February. They helped construct timber decking, paint stair treads, clear vegetation with whipper snippers, install tree guards and remove blackberries.



The volunteers brought a wealth of experience and genuine enthusiasm to the project. I greatly enjoyed connecting and working with them, and their support helped bring our long-term vision to fruition. It was especially rewarding to hear that they valued the hands-on work and the opportunity to contribute in a unique part of our community. Their efforts showed just how much can be achieved through strong partnerships and a shared commitment to the environment. ***(Landcare Representative)***





ADVOCACY

We will work with our stakeholders to advocate for volunteering and greater recognition of the industry.

Advocacy continued to be a cornerstone of our work this year. VT:

- Celebrated the launch of Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy.
- Promoted the commencement of the two-year Registration to Work with Vulnerable People fee waiver pilot for volunteers.
- Participated in consultations across disability inclusion, preventive health, mental health, disaster resilience, insurance and workforce reforms.
- Continued advocacy through national volunteering networks and the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Service Peaks.

CEO Mel Blake's articles were published in the Mercury, *Volunteers bring value every day* (July 2025) and *Let's do better to attract volunteers* (March 2026), highlighting how volunteering is changing and the importance of strengthening volunteer participation and support across Tasmania.



Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

"The reality is not that people no longer want to volunteer, in fact, research tells us the opposite. As volunteering researcher Paul Muller explains, people are still willing to give their time, but their needs are changing. Increasingly, volunteering needs to fit around work, study, caring responsibilities and the complexity of modern life. For many, that means shorter commitments, more flexible roles, and opportunities that feel meaningful and aligned with their values."
- Volunteering Tasmania CEO, Mel Blake

Government Engagement

VT represented Tasmania's volunteering industry through engagement with Ministers, Members of Parliament, government agencies and at key stakeholder forums. We promoted the value of volunteering, and we contributed to state and national conversations at national forums, through the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Service Peaks and partnerships with others. These activities helped strengthen awareness of the industry's contribution and the investment and support needed for volunteering to thrive.



VT Chair Sarah, with the Premier and Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs at a media event.

Timeline

2025 (July – December)

Remove Barriers to Volunteering, VT's public statement issued on 2025 Tasmanian Election Priorities.

'Volunteers bring value every day', opinion piece by VT CEO in The Mercury, July 2025.

Fair Work Commission Gender Undervaluation Priority Awards Review, VT submission.

'Volunteering: A thriving culture of community participation' VT session delivered at the 2025 TasCOSS Conference.

Minister for Community Services and Multicultural Affairs, Treasurer, and other elected representatives attended the 10th Annual Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Amendment Bill 2025, VT submission.

'Breaking down barriers to giving our time', opinion piece by VT Board Director, Cameron Scott in The Mercury, October 2025.

Official launch of the inaugural Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy, November 2025.

Volunteering Tasmania Budget Priority Submission 2026-27 lodged to Treasury.

Official launch of the 2-year Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) fee waiver pilot, to run from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

2026 (January – June)

TasInsure Discussion Paper and Draft Bill, VT submission.

Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan Discussion Paper, VT submission.

The Health Revolution: 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy Exposure Draft, VT submission.

'Let's do better to attract volunteers', opinion piece by VT CEO in The Mercury, March 2026.

Towards Tasmania's next Mental Health Strategy Discussion Paper, VT submission.

Ongoing VT Budget Priority Submission advocacy including:

- Letters to MPs and MLCs

- Meetings with elected representatives

Volunteering Tasmania's CEO and Chair attended the inaugural Australian Volunteer of the Year Awards in Canberra with Tasmanian Premier's Volunteer of the Year Award 2025 winner, Christine Chilcott.

VT CEO attended the State Budget Lock Up and TasCOSS Budget Briefing.

VT released a State Budget Response outlining key impacts for our industry and networks.

In parliament, Roger Jaensch MP and other elected representatives highlighted the contributions made by Tasmanian volunteers, and the significance of National Volunteer Week (18-24 May 2026).

Ongoing VT engagement with the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) about the Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan.

Advocacy wins

This year we celebrated two key milestones for the volunteering industry. The launch of Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy 2025-2030 in November 2025 and the commencement of the two-year pilot removing Registration to Work with Vulnerable People fees for volunteers in January 2026.

Reducing the financial barriers of volunteering: 2-year Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) fee waiver



VT Chair Sarah with volunteers onboard SV Rhona H at the launch of the RWVP pilot.

SV Rhona H hosted the media event on 31 December 2025 with VT Chair, the Premier, the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff, and the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Madeleine Ogilvie, to mark the start of the removal of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) fees for volunteers. This initiative represents an important step towards reducing barriers to volunteering.

The Tasmanian Government's 2-year fee waiver pilot for volunteers, has benefited 10,500 individual applicants in the first 5 months of the pilot, according to data from Budget Estimates in early June 2026.

For many years, Volunteering Tasmania advocated for the removal of RWVP fees for volunteers recognising:

- ongoing feedback from the volunteering industry that this has been a major concern, as cost and complexity can create a barrier to volunteering;
- Tasmania has been one of the few jurisdictions to continue charging a registration fee to volunteer applicants;
- Tasmania's RWVP fee has been high, in comparison with other jurisdictions; and
- the Department of Justice's RWVP Expansion Project meant that the cost burden on volunteers would expand due to removal of the 7-day exemption, the broadened categories of vulnerable people, and the introduction of new regulated activities.

VT will continue advocacy for the permanent removal of RWVP fees for volunteers and making volunteer screening easier and less time-consuming.

Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan



At the launch of the Strategy - Natham, Manager, Goodwood Community Centre with the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, Marcus Vermey MP and VT CEO Mel.

The Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan has been an ongoing advocacy priority for Volunteering Tasmania. The launch of the Strategy took place at Goodwood Community Centre with our CEO Mel Blake, the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, and Marcus Vermey MP. We were excited to have some of our members who were involved in the development of the Strategy (including Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania, Libraries Tasmania, Wildcare Tasmania, and Community Transport Services Tasmania) with us. We continue to engage with DPAC on the Action Plan with the primary aim to see the needs and interests of the Tasmanian volunteering industry reflected and supported.

"Volunteering provides $12.1 billion in benefits annually to the Tasmanian economy. This strategy will help us respond to the changing and complex needs within the volunteering industry and provide realistic and sustainable solutions."
Tasmanian Government's media release -
Volunteering Tasmania CEO, Mel Blake

State submissions and participation in policy development

Valuing our Volunteers: Volunteering Tasmania Budget Priority Submission 2026-27 (December 2025)



While reflecting the fiscal environment, our submission urged investment in volunteering to avoid future risks from unmet demand. VT narrowed our 2026-27 budget requests to three and ensured we reflected the importance of the Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy and the Action Plan.

Priority 1: Strengthening the industry: Creating a Ministerial portfolio for volunteering. VT advocated for a new portfolio for volunteering to provide whole-of-government coordination to implement the Strategy and Action Plan, and support actions to curb the decline of formal volunteering. As volunteering spans multiple sectors, we noted it is not optimal that volunteering be aligned to a single sector portfolio.

Priority 2: Valuing our volunteers: Delivering Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan. VT advocated for the continuation and expansion of the uplift in peak body funding over the next five years to support our involvement in advancing the Strategy, participate in the progression of strategic actions from the 5-year Action Plan for the Strategy, and working in partnership with Government on its implementation. We also sought funding to deliver two State of Volunteering Reports over the next five years, to bookend the delivery of the Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan with reliable baseline data and a report from which to evaluate progress.

Priority 3: Supporting and developing the workforce: Developing a child and youth safe volunteering education program. VT sought three-year funding for a Child and Youth Safe Volunteering Education Program to employ two Education Officers and develop volunteer-context-specific training and resources to fulfil the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations on child and youth safety.

TasInsure Discussion Paper and Draft Bill (January 2026)

VT provided feedback on the proposed TasInsure scheme, recognising that insurance affordability is a significant issue for many volunteer-involving organisations and can create barriers to volunteering and service delivery. While supporting measures that help reduce cost pressures, we encouraged the Tasmanian Government to consider additional reforms to improve insurance access and affordability for the industry, including support for organisations unable to secure insurance through the private market and broader measures to address rising insurance costs like tax reform.

Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan Consultation Registration (March 2026)

VT engaged in consultation on the draft Disability Inclusion Plan, supporting its development and the establishment of the Disability Inclusion Advisory Council. We encouraged a stronger focus on volunteering as an important pathway to participation and inclusion, alongside employment. We also encouraged the Tasmanian Government to consider extending the reach of the Plan in future, by requiring Local Government and State Government-funded non-government organisations to develop and implement Disability Inclusion Plans.

The Health Revolution: 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy Exposure Draft (March 2026)

VT acknowledged the Exposure Draft's recognition of volunteers, and we welcomed commitment to developing actions for the

benefit of volunteers and carers. We offered recommendations to:

- recognise volunteers as an essential part of preventive health infrastructure;
- embed volunteering into every level of planning, delivery and evaluation;
- prioritise volunteer wellbeing; and
- invest in the systems and programs that allow volunteering to thrive.

All Volunteering Tasmania submissions are available on our website: **www.volunteeringtas.org.au/policy-advocacy-and-research/submissions**

National submissions, research, and partnerships

Volunteering Australia pre-budget submission 2026-27 (December 2025)

In December 2025, we contributed to Volunteering Australia's Federal Government 2026-27 Pre-Budget-Submission. The submission demonstrates how targeted, strategic investment in volunteering will enable the Australian Government and the volunteering ecosystem to achieve key priorities.

Other submissions

We contributed to and endorsed the following national submissions:

- Productivity Commission Interim Report: Delivering Quality Care More Efficiently
- National Approach to Worker Screening in the Care and Support Economy
- Review of the Disability Discrimination Act
- Inquiry into Small Business Insurance
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026.

All Volunteering Australia submissions are available to view or download at: **https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/policy/submissions/**

Partnerships and networking

VT had ongoing participation in the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Service Peaks, including the Prioritise all Tasmanians campaign. The campaign called for a sustainable community services industry to meet the current and future needs of all Tasmanians. VT stood with other peaks to mark the presentation of a petition to Parliament.



Representatives of the Coalition of Community Service Peaks, with an open letter signed by more than 1200 Tasmanians.

VT partnered with the Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) to promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month and deliver an online workshop on best practice volunteer management in sport and recreation. The workshop focused on practical strategies and tips to assist sporting organisations to create safe practices and environments aligned with the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. Through this, we engaged with 13 sporting organisations, with an additional 16 organisations receiving follow-up resources.



Fiona from VT at the launch of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in May, with the Hon. Jane Howlett, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, Shirleyann SASS CEO, and the Tasmania Devils.

The VT team regularly engage in national advocacy, policy and research discussions, as well as national program meetings, with Volunteering Australia and other state and territory volunteering peak bodies, including:

- CEO Network with Volunteering Australia and state/territory volunteering peak bodies
- National Policy Group
- National Marcomms Group
- National Volunteering Research Network
- National Continuous Professional Development Steering Committee
- VMA National Coordination Group
- CHSP National Network Co-Chaired by VT and Volunteering SA

We also participate in a range of other stakeholder groups, including:

- Community Services Resilience Network, facilitated by TasCOSS
- TasCOSS Members Network
- Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (CYSOF) Peer Learning Network
- Networking for Harmony Advisory Group, facilitated by City of Hobart
- Access Advisory Group, facilitated by City of Hobart
- Clarence Access and Inclusion Network (CAIN), facilitated by Clarence City Council
- Youth Action Priorities Network Group, facilitated by City of Hobart
- Health Promotions South Network
- State Home and Community Care (HACC) Forum
- Tasmania Sector Support and Development (SSD) Provider Network



Participants at Future of Volunteering Forum in Ulverstone.

IMPACT

We will have impact and influence through education and promoting the positive impact of volunteering.

Celebrating the positive impact of volunteering

This year was one of celebration and recognition, with 2025 marking a decade of the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards and 2026 the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. Some other highlights were the inaugural Australian Volunteer of the Year Awards and our Future of Volunteering Symposium.

10 Years of Recognising Tasmania's Volunteers

tasmanian volunteering awards 2025

Celebrating 10 YEARS of volunteering AWARDS



VT CEO Mel with winners of the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards 2025 (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).

The 2025 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards celebrated a decade of recognising the individuals, groups and organisations whose dedication strengthens communities across Tasmania. The event was a powerful celebration of the volunteering spirit and provided an opportunity for finalists, supporters and community leaders to connect, reflect and celebrate the extraordinary contributions being made across Tasmania.

Our special tenth-anniversary Awards Ceremony was held at the Hobart Town Hall, bringing together more than 140 guests, including Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, Members of Parliament, sponsors, finalists and supporters from across the state. Robyn Moore AM was our fantastic MC. The Honourable Madeleine Ogilvie MP presented the Premier's Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of the Premier, and Her Excellency Barbara Baker AC presented a special posthumous Enduring Contribution Award.

We are deeply grateful to all our Awards sponsors and supporters, with special thanks to the Tasmanian Government for their funding contribution, and to the City of Hobart for their generous in-kind venue support.

"It was such an honour to be part of this inspirational day, and I am still buzzing thinking about all the wonderful stories and contributions made by all the finalists and their teams." ***Guest***

"Seeing the news publicly shared, being able to comment, and celebrating with the community added to the joy of the moment. It made the achievement feel real and widely recognised." ***Finalist***

Premier's Volunteer of the Year

Meet our 2025 Premier's Volunteer of the Year Winner!

Christine Chilcott was named both the Lifetime Commitment Award recipient and Premier's Volunteer of the Year, and she went on to represent Tasmania as the state's nominee for the inaugural Australian Volunteer of the Year Awards. For over thirty years, Christine Chilcott has been a driving force behind community life in the Meander Valley, volunteering with an incredible 17 organisations. Her enthusiasm is contagious, with many groups growing their volunteer numbers wherever she lends her support.

In the sporting world, Christine encourages younger players to pursue not only a playing career but also involvement in coaching and umpiring roles – ensuring the future of local sports remains strong and sustainable.

Christine also brings joy and connection to aged care residents through her weekly mobile store visits. More than a shopping service, these visits guarantee each resident has a friendly face and meaningful interaction. Her themed costumes add a touch of fun and laughter, making her visits a highlight of the week.

After the isolation of COVID-19, Christine reignited community spirit by organising a bonfire event. This event was so impactful it was named 'Community Event of the Year' by Meander Valley Council and has since become an annual celebration.

Christine's unwavering commitment and creativity continue to change lives, making her a cherished pillar of the Meander Valley community.

Enduring Contribution Award



Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, presenting the Award to Sandra Collin (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).

A special Enduring Contribution Award was presented by the Governor to honour the late Stephen Mattingley, recognising a lifetime of service and the lasting legacy he leaves through his contribution to the Tasmanian community.

"The 2025 Awards highlighted inspiring stories of volunteers making a difference in many ways, from supporting women and children and welcoming new Tasmanians to providing decades of service to their communities. These stories represent not only the achievements of our finalists and winners, but also the thousands of volunteers across Tasmania who generously contribute their time, skills and passion to causes they care about." ***CEO Mel Blake***



Christine accepting the 2025 Premier's Volunteer of the Year Award (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).

Creating Opportunities to Connect

Future of Volunteering Symposium



VT CEO Mel with Symposium speakers and MC Rick Fontyn (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

In the lead-up to National Volunteer Week, we brought the industry together for our Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (May). It was wonderful to have VT's Chair, Sarah Wilcox, provide a moving Statement to Honour Country to all delegates.

With the theme Strengthening What Works; Shaping What's Next, the Symposium brought together 127 delegates from across Tasmania, including volunteer leaders, organisations, researchers and community partners, to explore the future of volunteering. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions and interactive breakout sessions, participants examined emerging trends and challenges, exchanged ideas and insights, and identified practical responses to strengthen volunteer involvement. The event also fostered valuable connections across the industry, reinforcing a shared commitment to building a strong, sustainable future for volunteering in Tasmania.

We were excited to have keynote presentations from nationally respected social innovation and community-centred change leader, Nairn Walker, and multi-award-winning neuroscientist, Dr Lila Landowski. Their insights challenged delegates to think differently about leadership, engagement, resilience and the changing nature of community participation.

VT collaborated with YNOT and the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network (TYVN) to co-design a youth panel and Youth-Friendly Volunteering Workshop. Featuring four young volunteers from TYVN, the panel provided authentic insights into the motivations, experiences and challenges of young people engaging in volunteering, helping organisations better understand how to attract and retain younger volunteers.



Tasmanian Youth Voice Network Panel (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

"The youth panel was my favourite part of the day. Hearing directly from young people about their volunteering experiences was incredibly valuable." ***Delegate***

The Symposium also helped turn learning into action. Attendees took away practical steps to implement, from reviewing policies and systems, strengthening leadership engagement, and adopting improved volunteer management practices.



Artwork by Jamie Edwards, illustrating the themes of the Symposium.

"This Symposium has enabled me to make contact with many stakeholders to explore opportunities to learn from one and another and work together in the future in many different fields." ***Delegate***

"This Symposium has opened my eyes about many topics and further solidified the need for further development in my field. That knowledge, in combination with the people to connect with, has been extremely valuable." ***Delegate***

"I appreciated Sarah's acknowledgement of country and speaking Palawa Kani. It was very special to listen and appreciate how lucky we are to be able to learn from Tasmanian Aboriginal people" ***Delegate***

National Volunteer Week 2026

This National Volunteer Week, 18-24 May, we celebrated the theme ‘Your Year to Volunteer’, launched nominations for the 2026 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards, and partnered with the Tasmanian Training Consortium to offer free professional development opportunities for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations.

VT worked alongside Volunteering Australia, state and territory volunteering peak bodies, and campaign partner Media Cast to promote volunteering through coordinated media activity. Through media engagement and community storytelling, VT’s CEO and Board Chair helped to raise the profile of volunteering statewide. The campaign secured 97 items of coverage with more than 3.2 million impressions across Tasmania including a feature spread in The Mercury: National Volunteering Week: Tassie generosity shines despite changing nature of volunteering.



VT CEO Mel with Tasmanian finalist Christine and Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia.

VT was also proud to participate in the inaugural Australian Volunteer of the Year Awards in Canberra, hosted by the Governor-General at Government House. Tasmania was represented by Christine Chilcott, recipient of the 2025 Premier’s Volunteer of the Year Award, whose attendance was made possible through the support of the Premier. We thank Christine for representing Tasmania on the national stage and congratulate Dr Felix Ho ASM OAM, who was named Australian Volunteer of the Year.

Statewide Connection Pop-Up Tour



Elisa from VT with volunteers on the Connection Pop Up Tour.

VT strengthened connections with communities and volunteer-involving organisations across the state through our Connection Pop-up Tour (March-April). The tour engaged more than 150 individuals and organisations in regional Tasmania, providing place-based, face-to-face support, information, referrals and practical resources. These conversations highlighted key challenges facing the industry, including volunteer recruitment and retention, increasing compliance requirements, transport barriers and volunteer burnout. Through this outreach, we also promoted safe, inclusive and effective volunteering practices aligned with the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.



Rhonda from VT with Matt Flakemore CEO Tandara Lodge Community Care at the Sheffield Pop Up.

Future of Volunteering Connection Events

To recognise International Volunteer Managers Day, VT delivered a series of Future of Volunteering Connection Events across the state in November 2025. In collaboration with the Office of the Independent Regulator (OIR), concurrent learning and networking opportunities were held in the South, North and North West, bringing together 104 people across the three events including volunteer managers and leaders. The program included updates from VT, volunteer panel discussions with 2025 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards winners and finalists, and speed networking sessions. The events provided a valuable forum for collaboration, learning and strengthening relationships across Tasmania's volunteering community.



Speed networking.

Supporting Tasmanian Participation at the National Volunteering Conference



The VT team at the National Volunteering Conference.

VT team members and our Chair joined more than 400 delegates in Adelaide and online for the 2026 National Volunteering Conference, exploring the opportunities, challenges and emerging trends shaping the future of volunteering. Across three days of keynote presentations, workshops, panel discussions and networking events, volunteer managers, researchers, policymakers, community leaders and volunteers came together to share ideas, build knowledge and strengthen connections.

VT supported Tasmanian participation by promoting conference scholarships funded by the Department of Social Services. These scholarships increased Tasmania's representation at a significant national industry event while providing valuable opportunities for professional development, networking and knowledge exchange.

"So much excellent information, exceptional programs and their learnings promoted, and great speakers. It was also really lovely to meet and spend time with two of the other scholarship winners from Tasmania. I had no previous knowledge of their work and was impressed with the variety of things going on behind the scenes, even amongst our small group." ***Tasmanian scholarship recipient***

"I enjoyed the conference immensely. Some real gems came out of the 'Pathways for Young Aboriginal Women' session, with valuable insights into co-design, theory of change and journey mapping that will inform our future practice." ***Tasmanian scholarship recipient***

Supporting inclusion and accessibility across Tasmania

Inclusive Volunteering Program

The Inclusive Volunteering Program (IVP) supports people with disability and those on a mental health recovery journey to engage in volunteering as a pathway to employment, connection and confidence.

Our two IVP Coordinators, based in the north and south of Tasmania, worked directly with 36 participants and 66 organisations to explore volunteering opportunities and help volunteers make meaningful progress towards employment. The program also supports volunteer-involving organisations with workshops and tailored advice to make reasonable adjustments and create welcoming, accessible volunteer experiences. Read some of their stories below.

Sithy's story

Sithy had only been a volunteer manager with Australia Red Cross for a couple of weeks when IVP Coordinator, Sheila, introduced her to the program. There were doubts, concerns and questions in Sithy's mind given her newness in the role - until one facilitated meeting with a program participant.

This meet-and-greet removed Sithy's previously held concerns and doubts. She connected with a participant living with epilepsy who was keen to volunteer in aged care. She saw the participant's skills, compassion and optimism, and learned about the participant's experiences of their condition and management. She then welcomed and inducted the participant into their aged care visiting volunteer program.

Since the introduction, Sithy has been actively participating in IVP trainings and other inclusive workshops to strengthen her knowledge and practices. All this learning goes into how she engages with volunteers and interacts with others. She feels more confident and capable than ever to advocate for diversity and inclusion. And she thrives to continue learning as a volunteer manager in the aged care sector and as a dedicated member of our community.

"I really value being included and supported in this space. Thank you for informing us about the program and always sending in very valuable information...More motivated to become a better person. With keeping in mind what I have learned."

Lachie's story **(name changed for privacy)**

Accompanied by his employment coach and support worker, Lachie visited VT for the first time with courage, reassurance and the use of (self-described) masking techniques. As a young person living with autism navigating employment options, Lachie wanted to experience the world creatively and authentically, yet the market seemed to lack flexibility. Through strength-based discussions on his interests and qualities, Lachie started to gain confidence and showed up as his bubbly, enthusiastic and passionate self.

From reluctance to excitement, Lachie chose not one but two different volunteering roles to try out. He confidently attended meet-and-greets with organisations in the presence of his support worker and IVP Coordinator, and he learned intently about the roles that matched his interests.

After a couple of grounded and encouraging chats, Lachie overcame his initial uncertainties and decided to challenge himself with a volunteering role that had a longer learning curve and skill development journey.

Lachie's coach shared, "He's motivated and positive and feels like his life is coming online, and he's open to whatever comes his way which is fantastic.... He is learning things about himself, that is the main thing...it's the only way to really see what direction to take."



Supporting access to opportunities with Volunteer Connect

Volunteer Connect helps connect people with meaningful volunteering opportunities while supporting organisations to find and welcome new volunteers.

This year, 424 volunteer roles were advertised across Tasmania. Behind the service platform is our wonderful Volunteer Connector, Tevas, who helped 101 Tasmanians to connect with volunteering opportunities and experience the many benefits of volunteering.



Our Volunteer Connector Tevas helping the community.

Home and Community Care Volunteering

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting Tasmanians to remain connected, independent and engaged in their communities. During 2025-26, VT finalised and released the report Understanding the Role and Impact of Volunteering in Home and Community Care: The Voices of Service in Tasmania.



Home and Community Care volunteer with participant.

The research explored the experiences of volunteers and providers across Home and Community Care, including the Tasmanian HACC (HACC) program and Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), highlighting both the value volunteers bring and the factors that support volunteer participation and retention. The research also reinforced the importance of recognition, support and meaningful volunteer experiences.

"Volunteers are often looking for something, whether it's to give back, make sense of past experiences, or find a meaningful outlet for their skills." ***Home and Community Care (HACC) Provider***

"I feel totally supported and recognised and that's what keeps me going." ***Volunteer***

VT promoted volunteering opportunities throughout the year. In early 2026, we released two short videos, highlighting the impact of volunteering on both volunteers and service recipients. One video follows Pauline, a volunteer with Launceston Volunteers for Community, as she assists client Helen with shopping and everyday activities that support her independence and community participation. Another follows Sheila, a volunteer with Australian Red Cross, who regularly visits Liz, providing support and social connection.

The Report and videos can be accessed via the VT website: https://volunteeringtas.org.au/for-volunteers/home-and-community-care-volunteers/



Home and Community Care volunteer with participant.

We also released promotional postcards of volunteering in home and community care.





"I would suggest to anybody, if you've got a little bit of free time, even if it's just one afternoon, you're helping someone out. You're doing something good for yourself and for whoever you're helping." ***Pauline, volunteer***

Supporting Organisations Through Change

The volunteering landscape continues to evolve, particularly within aged care and community services.

New Aged Care Act 2025

On 1 November 2025, the new Aged Care Act 2025 commenced. To support organisations through this transition, VT continues to work in partnership with Volunteering SA&NT through the CHSP National Volunteering Network to deliver information sessions and networking opportunities for providers.

Guest speakers from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing provided practical guidance, answered questions and shared information to assist organisations in understanding and responding to the reforms.

National Standards for Volunteer Involvement

A major focus during the year was supporting members to strengthen practice through implementation of the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement (NSVI).

VT led the development of Quick Guides with the Volunteer Management Activity National Coordination Group. The aim of these guides is to assist volunteer-involving organisations to track their progress against the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement (NSVI), wherever they are in terms of their experience with the NSVI. The guides were informed by consultation with the volunteering industry. To complement the guides, VT developed written and audio case studies showcasing practical approaches to implementing the Standards in diverse organisational settings.



"Having clear guidelines for how we work with volunteers and what we expect from each other is essential to the important work we do."
Volunteer-involving Organisation

"The NSVI actually makes things easier. In some ways, they do the thinking and planning for you. The work has already been done."
Volunteer-involving Organisation

Volunteer Management Activity

The Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) increases opportunities for people to participate in the social and economic life of their communities through volunteering.

This year marked an important milestone, with the publication of the Volunteer Management Activity Impact Report 2021-2026. The report highlights successful approaches to strengthening volunteer participation and includes several Tasmanian case studies focused on people with disability, young people, people experiencing unemployment and newly arrived migrants.



To support organisations further, VT launched a dedicated VMA webpage, bringing together practical resources and tools developed throughout the program. The new online hub provides organisations with easier access to evidence-based resources that help create welcoming and inclusive volunteering environments.

Strengthening partnerships and elevating diverse voices

Through strong partnerships, practical resources and industry-wide capacity building, the VMA continues to support volunteer-involving organisations to create more inclusive opportunities, ensuring more Tasmanians can contribute to and benefit from volunteering.

In 2025, VMA activity was focused on the priority cohort of 'First Nations'. VT partnered with Dewayne Everettsmith and Mina Nina to deliver Aboriginal Cultural Safety Awareness training to provide practical tools for volunteer-involving organisations to engage Palawa in culturally safe volunteering opportunities. Feedback from these sessions was overwhelmingly positive.

"Well done to everyone involved, it was an amazing session, we didn't stop talking about it all the way back to work. We couldn't wait to share what we had learned with our other colleagues." ***Aboriginal Cultural Safety Awareness Training participant***

"I have engaged in a few sessions with Volunteer Tasmania and always come away with positives to take back to my own organisation and help better in the community." ***Aboriginal Cultural Safety Awareness Training participant***



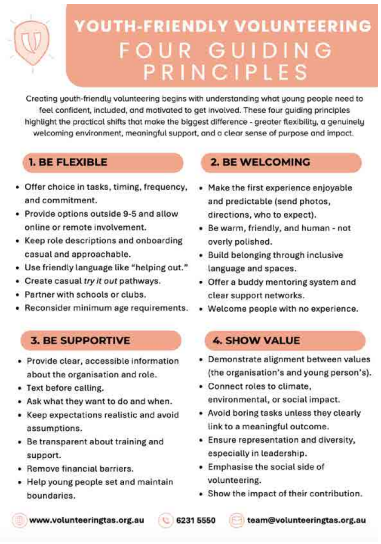
Map from Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Safety Training.



Panellists at Hobart Human Library event.

We also partnered with Justice Connect to provide legal and volunteer safety training, and A Fairer World, Hobart Human Library, the Office of the Independent Regulator, the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) and the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network (TYVN) to deliver sector development initiatives and a Symposium panel. Building on these insights, the Youth-Friendly Volunteering workshop introduced the VMA resource Four Guiding Principles for Youth-Friendly Volunteering, providing practical strategies to help organisations attract, engage and retain young volunteers.

"I found the insights into youth motivations to volunteer and what they find the most welcoming, super useful." ***Workshop participant***



The VMA Report and resources can be found here: **https://volunteeringtas.org.au/volunteer-management/**

Sector development workshops and training

The VMA continued to support volunteer-involving organisations through a range of workshops, training sessions and collaborative learning opportunities. This year, we held 18 sector development workshops, engaging 439 participants.

Topics included:

- Legal Issues in Managing a Diverse Volunteer Team
- Volunteer Safety
- Applying the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement
- Child and Youth Safe Volunteering (in partnership with the Office of the Independent Regulator (OIR), the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) and Tasmanian Youth Voice Network)
- Aboriginal Cultural Safety in Volunteering in partnership with Dewayne Everettsmith from Mina Nina
- Youth-Friendly Volunteering
- Cybersecurity: Protect Yourself from Scams
- Diversity and Inclusion in Volunteering

A highlight of the year was the delivery of the Diversity and Inclusion in Volunteering workshop in partnership with A Fairer World and the Hobart Human Library. The session brought together key learnings from five years of VMA work with priority groups and explored practical ways organisations can create volunteer experiences that are welcoming, accessible and responsive to diverse community needs.



"It was a fantastic, valuable session with like-minded people all facing the same issues and all in the same industry. Really well done to all involved."

"I gained a strong awareness of different attributes, cultures and understandings of people's contribution to societies."

Diversity and Inclusion in Volunteering participants.

Highlighting the value of Volunteering

VT delivered 18 Introduction to Volunteering sessions to over 300 potential volunteers. We connected directly with people from groups who can face additional barriers to volunteering, including young people, newly arrived migrants, people with disability and people experiencing unemployment. Through information sessions, community events and tailored support, we helped individuals discover how volunteering can build skills, confidence, connections and pathways to future opportunities.

These sessions highlighted the benefits of volunteering and connected participants to opportunities through Volunteer Connect. We also engaged with international students and newly arrived migrants, providing information on how volunteering can support community connection, belonging and local networks.

For people with disability, we delivered targeted information sessions in partnership with our Inclusive Volunteering Program. At TasTAFE, participants explored inclusive volunteering pathways and heard directly from volunteers with disability through co-designed resources.

Several students subsequently applied to participate in the Inclusive Volunteering Program.

"The session was extremely valuable and well-received by both students and staff.

Many of the students I spoke to after the session commented on how eye-opening it was to hear about the different pathways and opportunities in volunteering. The information you shared about inclusive volunteering was particularly important for our students with diverse needs, as it helped them understand that there are meaningful opportunities available for everyone.

Staff also reflected that the presentation encouraged students to think beyond the classroom and see volunteering as not only a way to contribute to their community, but also as a chance to build skills, confidence, and connections.

We truly appreciate the work your team is doing, and the session has certainly made a positive impact on our group." ***Feedback provided by the organising TasTAFE teacher***

Through our partnership with National Joblink, we engaged job seekers across multiple locations, demonstrating how volunteering can reduce social isolation, build confidence, develop transferable skills and support pathways back into employment. These sessions consistently highlighted the transformative role volunteering can play in helping people reconnect with their communities and recognise the value they can contribute.



Ruth from VT delivering workshop to National Joblink participants.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to being an innovative, contemporary, and accountable peak body.

We continue to strengthen the foundations that support our work and position the organisation to deliver lasting impact for Tasmania's volunteering industry.

We advanced the implementation of several organisation-wide initiatives, including our People Strategy; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, and Membership Engagement Strategy, ensuring that our work remains evidence-informed, member-focused and aligned with our strategic priorities.

We also strengthened our organisational governance through the development of an Ethical Partnerships Policy and Modern Slavery Statement, enhancing our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework and reinforcing our commitment to ethical, transparent and responsible operations.

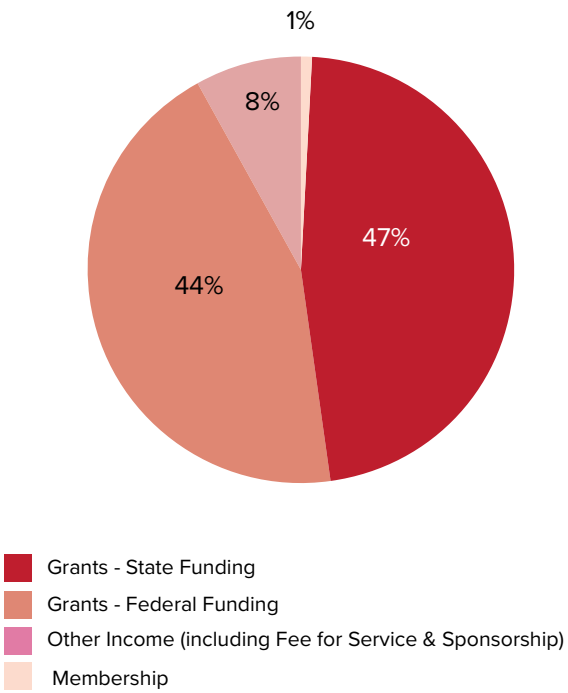
During the year, VT relocated offices, co-locating with Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania and other community service organisations. This move creates opportunities for greater collaboration, shared learning and stronger connections across the community service industry, while supporting efficient and sustainable use of resources.

Looking ahead, we were pleased to secure funding through the Tasmanian Community Fund for a new Youth Volunteering Program commencing on 1 July 2026, providing an important investment in our future work and helping to strengthen our capacity to support volunteering across the state.

Our 2025-26 financial report summary is provided below.

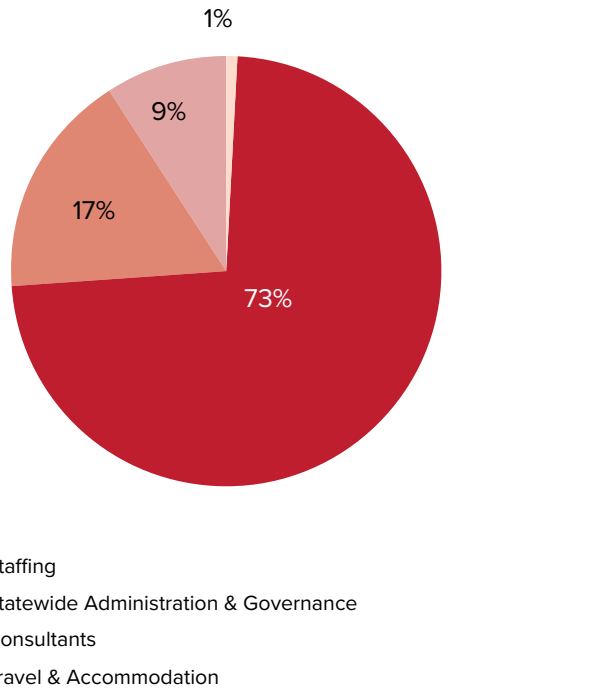
Income

for the year ended 30 June 2026



Operating Expenses

for the year ended 30 June 2026



Meet the VT Team



The VT team at the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards 2025 (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).

Our People

Our sustainability is also underpinned by the contribution of people who generously give their time. VT has a skills-based volunteer Board, made up of individuals with a breadth of skills to effectively support the governance of the organisation. In addition to regular Board Meetings, there are three sub-committees that meet to advise the Board on meeting governance responsibilities:

- The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC)
- The Governance Committee
- The CEO Support and Development Committee

This year our Board contributed 660 volunteer hours to the governance of Volunteering Tasmania.



The VT Board at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Our Team

Through a people-centred approach, we continue to foster a collaborative, values-driven and strategically focused workforce. By prioritising professional development, wellbeing and continuous learning, we strengthen our capacity to deliver meaningful outcomes for our members, volunteers and communities, while ensuring our team can thrive both personally and professionally.



The VT team volunteering at Foodbank.

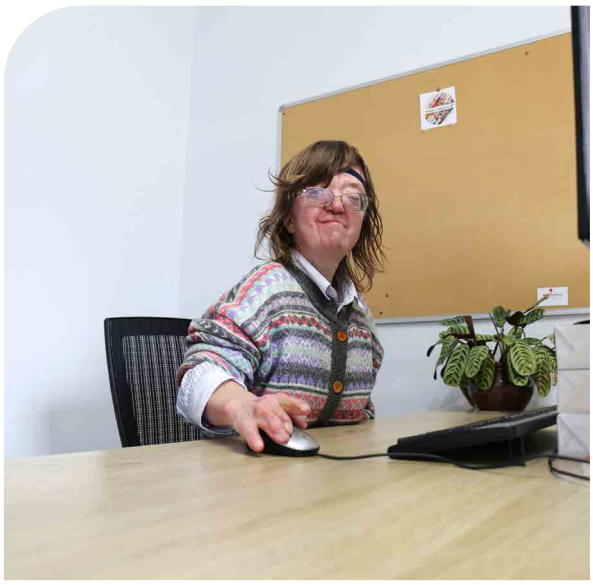


The VT team at the Future of Volunteering Symposium 2026 (Photo credit - Nick H Visuals).

VT is proud to offer our team employee volunteering leave, enabling and encouraging them to take part in formal volunteering roles. In 2025-26 the team utilised 132 hours of employee volunteering leave to support a range of organisations and causes across Tasmania.

Our Volunteers

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication, generosity and enthusiasm of our volunteers, who contributed 163 hours of their time to support our Volunteer Connect Service and assist at events throughout the year. Drawing on a wealth of professional experience, community knowledge and volunteering expertise, they make a significant contribution to our work and the people we support.



VT's Projects and Events Volunteer Caroline at the office.



Our Volunteer Connector Tevas, supporting the community with VT's Ruth.



VT's volunteer Caroline, with VT team at Tasmanian Volunteering Awards (Photo credit - Jillian Mundy).

volunteering
TASMANIA

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