Whittlesea Volunteer Resource Service

DEFINITION AND PRINCIPLES OF VOLUNTEERING*

Definition of volunteering

Formal volunteering in Australia is defined as an activity which takes place through not-for-profit organisations or projects, and is undertaken to be;

- of benefit to the community and the volunteer;
- of the volunteer's own free will and without coercion;
- for no financial payment;
- in designated volunteer positions only.

Principles of volunteering

These are a set of beliefs or guidelines that are designed to protect the individual volunteer and also provide guidelines around volunteering. These principles define volunteering as;

- benefiting the community and the volunteer;
- an activity that is unpaid;
- always a matter of choice;
- an activity performed in the not-for-profit sector only;
- a legally accepted way to get involved in the community;
- not a replacement for paid work;
- respecting the rights, dignity and culture of others;
- promoting human rights and equality.

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* This information has been adapted from the information produced by Volunteering Australia, 2004.