

VOLUNTEERS + VOLUNTEERING - POSITION STATEMENT

Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) has issued this position statement to provide an overview of its position and commitment to volunteering. WCC believes volunteers play a critical role in our organisation, municipality and beyond. Further, the Whittlesea Volunteer Resource Service plays a key role in sharing information on volunteering in the community and supporting volunteer involving organisations with information on best practice in volunteer management. WCC is committed to volunteering and will continue to work with community and other volunteer involving organisations to create a more cohesive and fair society.

Definitions and Terminology

The Australian definition of volunteering is “time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.” <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Definition-of-Volunteering-27-July-20151.pdf>

Formal Volunteering is defined as unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills willingly given by an individual through an organisation or group.

Informal Volunteering is defined as unpaid help or care that is provided in personal networks of family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances.

Our Position

WCC believes that volunteering is for everyone, people of all backgrounds, skills and abilities. As a community service organisation we see significant benefits in creating opportunities for the community to participate in, offer feedback on, and inform our work. It is thanks to the thousands of volunteers who have contributed their time and skills over the years that have made WCC a successful organisation that responds to community needs.

We are committed to supporting, delivering and advocating for

- Information sharing on volunteering and improved services to help community find the right volunteer opportunity
- Informal and formal volunteering opportunities to cater for everyone interested in volunteering
- Flexibility to accommodate volunteer lives, accessibility, responsibilities and interests
- Diversity in roles that respond to people’s lived experience, motivations for volunteering and provide meaningful opportunities for engagement and learning
- Training and professional development opportunities to help understand volunteer rights and responsibilities, support learning and employment pathways, skill development and job readiness

- Collaboration with volunteer involving organisations to increase participation of people experiencing barriers to volunteering and build capacity in best practice volunteer management
- Empowering volunteers, volunteer-led and volunteer involving organisations in order to build community resilience, intercultural understanding and cohesion.

We will focus on strengthening our relationships to support meaningful volunteer engagement in the municipality and achieve greater inclusion for those facing barriers to volunteering. We are committed to improving the volunteer journey at WCC to ensure that volunteers feel welcome and can access and participate in our services and programs. We will provide opportunities that build the capacity of volunteers in their journey with WCC and other volunteer involving organisations in the community.

Related documents

Related procedures, guidelines, forms etc	
Related frameworks	
Related policies	
Relevant legislation or standards	

Document Change History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Status*</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Ratified by</u>	<u>Date Ratified</u>
V1	Draft	For DAM sub committee review, Feb 2023	Emma Navarro		
V2	Draft	For Board approval	DAM sub committee		
V3	Endorsed	Added reference for definitions	Alex Haynes	Board	19 June 2023

* Valid values for this column are: DRAFT, ENDORSED, REVIEWED (no revision)