


Queanbeyan-Palerang Policy for Volunteering

Date policy was adopted:	24 October 2018	CEO Signature and date
Resolution number:	365/18	
Next Policy review date:	October 2021	
Reference number:	C1917853	
Strategic Pillar	Community	
Responsible Branch	Community & Education	
		25 October 2018

Queanbeyan-Palerang Policy for Volunteering

1. OVERVIEW:

- 1.1 QPRC acknowledges the significant impact that volunteering has on our region. Many of Council's services, and those provided by community agencies, rely on the commitment and goodwill of volunteers.
- 1.2 QPRC welcomes the involvement of the community through volunteering and aims to provide and/or support accessible volunteering opportunities that are meaningful and rewarding for our diverse communities.
- 1.3 Volunteers contribute to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the community by:
 - strengthening community cohesion, intergenerational exchange, social wellbeing and trust;
 - expanding the capacity to respond to the needs of citizens through a range of services and activities;
 - engaging the community in protecting local resources, improving the physical environment and support for environmental issues;
 - encouraging understanding of, and acceptance of, culture diversity and difference; and
 - providing people with the opportunity to contribute
- 1.4 In addition, strong evidence exists that people enjoy considerable health and social benefits from volunteering. The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance to Councillors, Managers and staff in the development, management and review of volunteering opportunities through QPRC.

2. DEFINITION:

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain (*Volunteering Australia*).

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND RELEVANT STANDARDS:

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
- Local Government Act 1993
- Anti Discrimination Act 1977
- QPRC Volunteer Directive 2018
- Child Protection Act (Working with Children) 2012

Good practice guidance and benchmarks are also provided in:

- The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement 2015

4. SCOPE OF THE POLICY:

- 4.1 Volunteers already contribute to the region in a number of significant ways both individually and through a range of existing groups.
- 4.2 This Policy therefore applies to:
 - all areas of Council that engage volunteers, including vocational placements, to deliver work on behalf of Council;
 - individuals who apply or are invited to apply to volunteer with Council; and

Queanbeyan-Palerang Policy for Volunteering

- all individuals volunteering within services and/or programs that are funded and/or managed by Council
- 4.3 The Policy does not apply to:
- other not-for-profit or voluntary organisations operating in the region using volunteers to deliver their services
 - volunteers providing their services in the event of an emergency, where this is managed externally by a partner organisation
 - volunteers of sporting clubs
 - volunteers of Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Apex and RSL
 - volunteers of Public Halls
 - volunteers of all other community groups within the region
- 4.4 It is anticipated that these organisations and groups will implement their own policy, relevant to their specific requirements.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

- 5.1 Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council commit to developing and supporting volunteer opportunities by:
- continuing to recognise and value the substantial and ongoing contribution made by volunteers and voluntary groups to the social and economic amenity of the region;
 - supporting Council volunteers in accordance with Council procedures and other relevant national and state guidelines;
 - supporting Council's S355 and other Community Committees in their delegated functions;
 - identifying and responding to current trends and challenges in volunteerism;
 - working with the community to build capacity and encourage participation through volunteering; and
 - working in partnership with community groups, the business sector and relevant stakeholders to develop volunteering opportunities, promote volunteering, raise the profile of volunteers and facilitate access to information about volunteering opportunities.

6. REVIEW

- 6.1 This policy may be reviewed and updated as necessary if:
- legislation requires it, or
 - Council's functions, structure or activities change.