

Volunteering Policy

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Strategic Pillar	Community Choice
Responsible Branch	Recreation & Culture

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1 OUTCOMES

- 1.1 QPRC acknowledges the significant contribution volunteers make to our region. Some 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 residents 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 and acceptance of, culture diversity and difference; and
 - providing people with the opportunity to contribute and knowledge share.
- 1.4 Strong evidence exists that people enjoy considerable health and social benefits from volunteering.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance to Councillors, Managers and staff in the development, management and review of volunteering opportunities throughout the Local Government Area.

3 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 This Policy 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
 - all individuals volunteering within services and/or programs that are funded and/or managed by Council.
 - Section 355 committee members.

4 DEFINITIONS

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

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR 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
- Child Protection Act (Working with Children) 2012

6 CONTENT

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council commits to developing and supporting volunteer opportunities in an inclusive workplace 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, enhance service delivery 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.

7 REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as necessary if:
- a) legislation requires it, or
 - b) Council's functions, structure or activities change