

Shire of Mundaring

POLICY

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT POLICY

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PURPOSE

Promote, support and develop volunteerism in the Shire of Mundaring.

POLICY

The Shire of Mundaring's Volunteer Policy is to:

- Recognise and value the substantial and ongoing contribution made by volunteers and voluntary groups to the quality of life of the community;
- Work in partnership with community groups and relevant stakeholders to develop volunteering opportunities, promote volunteering, raise the profile of volunteerism, and facilitate access to information about volunteering opportunities.
- Identify and implement initiatives to financially support volunteerism in the Shire of Mundaring

RATIONALE

Australian Bureau of Statistics show there is not a decline in volunteering in general, however there is a trend of less younger people volunteering and a reduction in the amount of time people are committing to volunteering. These trends provide future challenges to community organisations that rely on volunteers for their sustainability and survival.

The demographics and growth projections for the Shire of Mundaring indicate that the Shire will have an increasing proportion of older people, younger people, and those seeking an employment pathway via volunteering. As these are the groups that have the highest rates of volunteerism it may lead to a further increase in the level of volunteering in the Shire of Mundaring.

The Shire acknowledges that volunteers contribute to the political, social, economic, environmental, safety and cultural well-being of the community, by:

- Strengthening community cohesion, social wellbeing, and trust;
- Providing improved emergency services;
- Expanding the ability of the community to respond to the needs of its citizens and provide 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.

Support and development of volunteering within the Shire of Mundaring will enhance Council's vision of a rich mix of sustainable hills lifestyles building a stronger, sustainable and healthy community for future generations.

DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERING

In accordance with the National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not-For-Profit Organisations, the Shire adopts as its definition of volunteering:

Formal volunteering is an activity which takes place in 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, and
- in designated volunteer positions only.

VOLUNTEER POLICY INITIATIVES

1. Volunteer Support Grants

The Shire of Mundaring supports volunteers financially with the provision of two types of grants specifically created to support volunteers and volunteer organisations:

- **Volunteer Recognition Grant:** This provides funds to assist in holding an event that recognises the contribution local volunteer, sporting or other not for profit organisations and their members make to the local community. Council will allocate an appropriate amount annually to fund this grant program.
- **Milestone Event Grant:** This provides funds to assist an organisation that has reached a major milestone in its history or development. Council will allocate an appropriate amount annually towards events that recognises the efforts of the organisation and its members.

2. Volunteer Development Program

The Shire of Mundaring directly supports the training and development of volunteers through three programs. Council will allocate a suitable amount annually to fund these three programs:

- Training and Development Workshops: These workshops provide information and training to assist volunteers in their roles. Topics are to be based on the demonstrated needs of volunteers within the Shire.
- Volunteer Section of the Shire Web Site: This component of the Shire website provides volunteer relevant information and will be updated on a regular basis.
- Volunteer Information Pack: An information pack will be downloadable from the Shire's volunteer web site or sent out by post.

3. Volunteer Matching Service

The Shire of Mundaring connects volunteers to organisations that need them. Council will allocate a suitable amount annually to fund these two services:

- Partnership with Swan Volunteers: This partnership with Swan Volunteers assists volunteers in the Hills area to access volunteer opportunities.
- Community Development Advisor: This staff position implements the Volunteer Policy Initiatives in addition to collecting information from a variety of organisations, assists with the dissemination of information to local volunteers and volunteer organisations and liaises with community organisations such as the Hills Community Support Group and Department of Education & Training to assist with linking volunteers to current vacancies.

4. Volunteer Recognition / Promotion

The Shire of Mundaring recognises and promotes volunteerism through the following two programs. Council will allocate a suitable amount annually to fund these two programs:

- Thank a Volunteer Day: This event invites key volunteer groups from across all sectors of volunteering to nominate members to attend each year. It provides an opportunity to invite volunteers from both internal and external areas of the volunteer sector to recognise and thank them for their efforts.
- Inspiration Zone: A collection of inspirational stories relating to volunteers are written and published to the "inspiration zone" section of the volunteer web site, an area specifically designed to celebrate the achievements of our volunteers.