



Voluntary Work Australia, 2010

A snapshot of the report results

Australian statistics

In **2010**, **6.1 million people** aged 18 years and over **participated in voluntary work** in Australia.

This is an Australian **volunteering participation rate** of **36%**, up from 34% in 2006.

The **state and territories** with the **highest** volunteering participation rates are **Northern Territory (41.8%)**, **Tasmania (41.0%)** and **South Australia (38.6%)**.

The Australian volunteering participation rate for **women is 38%** compared to **34% for men**.

Parents in couple relationships with **dependent children** aged **between 5 and 17** years have the **highest volunteering participation rate, at 55%**. This probably reflects their family commitments such as volunteering to support the activities of their children.

Volunteering participation rates vary by labour force status:

- People in **full-time employment** have a rate of **38%**.
- People in **part-time employment** have a rate of **44%**.
- People who are **unemployed** have a rate of **20%**.
- People **not in the labour force** have a rate of **31%**.

The volunteering participation rate amongst people who **only speak English at home** is **39%**. This compares to a rate of **25%** for people who **speak a language other than English at home**.

People who have a **self-assessed disability or long-term health condition** have a volunteering participation rate of **33%**.

Characteristics of voluntary work and volunteers

The number of organisations with which people volunteer:

- **58% of volunteers** are with **one organisation**.
- **23% of volunteers** are with **two organisations**.
- **19% of volunteers** are with **three or more organisations**.

35% of adult volunteers volunteered at least **once per week**, with a further **27%** volunteering at least **once per month**.

The sectors of the organisations in which people volunteer:

- **Sport and physical recreation (37.3%)**
- Religious (22.3%)
- Welfare/community (21.5%)
- Education and training (17.5%)

58% of volunteers incurred **some expenses** during their volunteering.

One quarter of volunteers reported that **reimbursement for their expenses was available** from the organisation with which they volunteered.

66% of volunteers reported that **their parents had done some voluntary work**. This compares to **44% of non-volunteers**.

43% of adult volunteers had undertaken **some voluntary work as a child**. In comparison **27% of non-volunteers** reported doing some voluntary work as a child.

82% of volunteers reported that they **were delighted, pleased or mostly satisfied with their lives**. This compares to **75% of non-volunteers**.

Informal assistance

49% of people aged 18 years and over had **provided assistance to someone outside of their household**, in the four weeks prior to the survey. This figure was **64% for volunteers** compared to **41% for non-volunteers**.

Western Australian statistics

The **WA volunteering participation rate** is **34.9%**, with a total number of 590 500 volunteers.

This rate is **identical for men and women** in WA, at **34.9%**.

Perth's volunteering participation rate is **33.4%**, with a total number of 446 400 volunteers.

The **balance of WA's volunteering participation rate** is **40.7%**, with a total number of 144 100 volunteers.

The volunteering participation rates in WA by age groups:

- **18 – 24 years** olds have a volunteering participation rate of **26.3%**.
- **25 – 34** years olds have a volunteering participation rate of **23.3%**.
- **35 – 44** years olds have a volunteering participation rate of **42.9%**.
- **45 – 54** years olds have a volunteering participation rate of **39.5%**.
- **55 – 64** years olds have a volunteering participation rate of **44.0%**.
- those aged **65 years and over** have a volunteering participation rate of **32.4%**.

Source: ABS (2011) *Voluntary Work Australia, 2010* www.abs.gov.au