

# Corporate Volunteer Council

## What is a Corporate Volunteer Council?

A Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC) is a coalition of businesses, organisations and associations that recognise the importance of workplace volunteering. The CVC will provide professional guidance, development, support and networking opportunities. CVC members will benefit from the sharing of knowledge and resources and will gain a greater awareness of the needs of their local community.

## History

The concept of corporate volunteering networking started in the 1970s in New York City, when a group of companies met monthly to exchange ideas and information. It was formalised shortly after as the Corporate Volunteers of New York and today there are over 100 CVCs across the United States. Whilst CVCs vary in size, membership and structure, all have the same mission: they serve businesses in the cause of workplace volunteering.

## Corporate Volunteer Council in Western Australia

Volunteering WA has noticed a sharp increase in the number of businesses wishing to contribute to the community in ways other than just through sponsorship – they want to give their time. More and more WA companies are establishing employee volunteering programs in order to make an immediate positive impact on the community while at the same time involving their staff in engaging, team-building activities that foster a sense of community pride in their brand. In order to foster best practice and make an even greater impact on the community, companies in WA have formed the WA Corporate Volunteer Council, the first in Australia.

The WA Corporate Volunteer Council has one fundamental objective that guides its work:

*That with best practice in mind every business in Western Australia will involve their employees in volunteer activities.*

It will focus on 4 key areas:

1. **Promotion:** raising the profile of corporate social responsibility across the state, and being the focal point for employee volunteering issues and achievements. The Council will keep the corporate volunteering conversation going and urge others to take part.
2. **Programming:** The Council will develop an annual program of networking events, expert speakers and joint projects. It will tap into and cultivate the corporate sector's desire to give back to the community.
3. **Peer collaboration:** Bringing together like-minded people who have an appreciation of volunteerism will result in creative ideas and solutions to improve our community. The Council will provide a forum to share ideas, research and resources and to work in collaboration on internal and external projects.
4. **Praise:** Let's tell everyone which businesses are doing it best. The Council will determine the viability of "impact awards" to highlight best practice and benchmarks in corporate volunteering.

## How to join

[Corporate membership](#) details can be found on [Volunteering WA](#)'s web site. Contact the Corporate Volunteering team on 9482 4333 or at [corporate@volunteeringwa.org.au](mailto:corporate@volunteeringwa.org.au).

