

# Implementing the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) 2022-2026 in WA

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA)?**

The Volunteer Management Activity is a current stream of federal funding aimed at strengthening volunteering across Australia. Support for volunteering is funded federally through the Department of Social Services (DSS). One of the key changes to the program is that volunteering State / Territory Peak bodies have been appointed to deliver the new VMA across their states. The second key change is the shift in focus which is more specific than previous programs.

### **What are the key components of the VMA 2022-26 program?**

The VMA program focus is on Statewide approach to:

- The delivery of general online services and resources to build the capacity of volunteer involving organisations (VIOs). In Western Australia, this function will be undertaken by Volunteering WA and through the collaborative work of the National Volunteering Peak Bodies.
- The breaking down of barriers to volunteering, including those faced by six identified priority groups: First Nations peoples, People with Disabilities, Newly Arrived Migrants (people who have arrived in Australia within the past five years), Vulnerable Women, Youth and the Unemployed. This is the focus of a project-based strategy in WA, which is to be delivered by successful grant recipients via online or in-person activities.

### **What is the 'project-based strategy' funding model in WA?**

From 2022 -2026, there is an opportunity for organisations to apply for annual funding on a project basis. The projects will deliver outcomes that aim to break down barriers to volunteering for the three priority groups identified above. Further guidelines will be available for organisations, which will include submitting a proposal for funding for project(s) that support the Volunteer Management Activity framework and purpose of the [VMA Program](#). We refer to this model as the 'project-based strategy', with funding being awarded to project(s) with merit, as opposed to the previous model, which awarded funds to organisations as a whole.

### **Who can participate in the WA projects-based strategy?**

An organisation does not need to have been a previous recipient of VMA funding in order to apply for a project-based grant. Organisations that have expertise and experience in the working with any of the priority groups and can support breaking down barriers to volunteering for people in these groups.

Any volunteering involving organisation able to support the Volunteer Management Activity framework, including engagement with the priority groups in volunteering across regional, rural and remote areas of WA.

## **Why a project-based strategy for funding applications?**

The project-based strategy is designed to engage a range of organisations enabling greater collaboration and inclusion approaches.

It is intended that:

- The volunteering sector proposes suitable projects
- There is a transparent process to assess project proposals and review project achievements
- Volunteering organisations will achieve greater diversity and inclusion in their volunteer management activities and practices
- The project-based model will enhance the breadth and depth of the sector across Western Australia
- The project-based model will generate proactive engagement with diverse communities.

## **How is the project-based strategy different to how the volunteering sector has been funded to date?**

In the past, Department of Social Services provided block funding to organisations, to undertake a range of activities. The redesigned VMA focuses all funded activities on a set of priorities including:

- Breaking down the barriers to volunteering faced by the six identified priority groups: First Nations peoples, People with Disabilities, Newly Arrived Migrants, Vulnerable Women, Youth, and the Unemployed. This is the focus of the Volunteering WA Project Based Strategy
- The delivery of online services to build the capacity of volunteer involving organisations (VIOs). This is primarily the focus of Volunteering WA and other Volunteer Peak Bodies.

## **When will project based funding guidelines be released?**

Documents to guide and apply for the first round of annual project-based grants under the VMA program in WA, will be made available by early March 2023. Further timelines will be outlined on the Volunteering WA website. Please also see the *Information – VMA project-based strategy in WA 2022-2026*.

## **Who is eligible to apply for the project-based funding?**

Organisations that can demonstrate development of projects, focused on the priority groups of the new VMA program may apply for project-based grants. This includes projects that break down the barriers to volunteering faced by three identified priority groups: First Nations peoples, People with Disabilities, Newly Arrived Migrants, Vulnerable Women, Youth and the Unemployed. Organisations can submit an intersection application consisting of one or more of the above-specialized groups.

## **Where can you find out more about Volunteering WA's Volunteer Management Activity and the project-based strategy?**

Organisations are encouraged to review information on the Grants page of the Volunteering WA website <https://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/resources/grants> and check back regularly for any updates.

Please email [desiree@volunteeringwa.org.au](mailto:desiree@volunteeringwa.org.au) with any questions relating to the grant application submission.