

Volunteering WA

Research Grant Program 2026-27

Volunteering WA (VWA) wishes to acknowledge the Board for their commitment and support and thank members of the Research Committee for their assistance in establishing this program.

Objectives

- Facilitate connections between researchers, VWA and their members and stakeholders
- Enable VWA to gain local and statewide evidence and find answers to pertinent research questions
- Facilitate Higher Degree Research students and Early Career Researchers to engage with VWA and Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs)
- Grow Western Australia's capacity for volunteering research

Funding availability

- Up to a total of \$20,000, ex-GST will be distributed per round
- Funding may be allocated to one or more projects within the same round
- Funding may contribute in whole or in part to a project
- Additional funding from other sources and in-kind contributions are encouraged
- Western Australian based researchers, affiliated with an Australian university, with an academic or adjunct appointment or undertaking Higher Degree Research, are eligible to apply

Submissions

Research proposals are sought on new and emerging topics that contribute to our understanding of volunteering and how to advance volunteering in Western Australia, including:

Corporate/employee volunteering
Environmental/regenerative volunteering
Family volunteering
Youth volunteering
Seniors volunteering
First Nations volunteering¹
Inclusive volunteering

- Additionally, Volunteering WA is interested in research relating to the final report of a research project commissioned by the Volunteer Peak Bodies based on State and Territory

¹ Researchers who are interested in this area should make contact with us by email at dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au for a further conversation

State of Volunteering Report data, authored by Paul Muller with editorial assistance from

Submissions should address the essential criteria outlined in Attachment 1 and be sent to dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au by 5pm on Tuesday 7 April 2026.

Timetable

17 February 2026	Volunteering WA opens Research Grant Program 2025-26
COB 7 April 2026	Submissions close
April/May- 2026	Submissions assessed, requests for further details if required, possibility of meeting with shortlisted proposal(s)
June 2026	Successful projects announced, subject to contracts
From July 2026	Projects commence
By 17 December 2027	Projects to be completed and final reports presented no later than this date. Earlier submission is encouraged.

Assessment

Projects will be assessed on the criteria in Attachment 2. The assessment panel will recommend any shortlisted project(s) and may hold a follow up meeting prior to recommending the final project(s) for funding.

The assessment panel will include:

- One representative from Volunteering WA Research Committee
- One representative from Volunteering WA
- One Volunteering WA membership representative.

The final decision will be made by the CEO of Volunteering WA, subject to contractual agreement. Volunteering WA reserves the right to not award any funding.

Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Volunteering WA Research Grant Program. Applicants are encouraged to contact Dominique Hansen, Manager Policy and Research at Volunteering WA at dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au to discuss their proposed application prior to development.

Attachment 1

Volunteering WA Research Grant Program

– Essential criteria to be addressed in application

Word and page ranges are provided as suggestions, however applications that include sections that have exceeded the upper bounds of the ranges will not be considered.

Please use at least 11-point font, single spacing, and minimum margins of 2.5cm. Graphical information is welcome but not a requirement.

Title of project

Key research question to be addressed

Approach (300 words total)

- Proposed approach
- Timelines
- Risk management
- Pathway to future research or research collaborations

Research methodology (250 words total)

Investigators (1/2 page for each team member – if a student investigator or ECR research assistant will be involved but not yet identified, there is no need to submit details for that investigator)

- Name
- Email
- Current title
- Institution
- Qualifications
- Key research outputs (up to three citations)
- Evidence of experience in the translation of research into practice (250 words maximum)
- Evidence of capacity to complete the project within the timeframe (~25 words)
- If supervising a student researcher, experience with supervision (~25 words)

Budget (0.5 page)

- Small table showing items and costs
- Include contributions from other parties including in kind
- Highlight any additional funding not yet secured

Please state how your research supports the National Strategy for Volunteering and aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (100 words or less).

Summary of project and benefit to VWA (250 words)

- Why is this research of value to VWA and its members?
- Volunteering WA will make research available through its website. Please briefly outline any other plans for dissemination.



Attachment 2

Assessment criteria

1. Investigators

Potential score 20

- a. Evidence of successful peer-reviewed research dissemination, and involvement of early career researchers.

No evidence from team and no early career researcher involvement	Evidence from team or early career researcher involvement	Evidence from team and early career researcher involvement
0	2	6

- b. Evidence of a track record of research translation

No evidence of investment in research translation activities	Some evidence of investment in research translation activities	Clear commitment to investment in research translation activities
0	2	4

- c. Evidence of capacity to deliver within funding period

No evidence of capacity to deliver	Some limitations / concern regarding capacity to deliver	Clear evidence of capacity
0	2	4

- d. Evidence of past successful collaborations with industry (e.g. VWA) or commitment to a future collaboration

No evidence past or potential future collaboration	No evidence of past collaboration but evidence of successful collaborations with other organisations	No evidence of past collaboration but evidence of successful collaborations with other orgs AND clear evidence of commitment to future collaboration	Clear evidence of past successful collaboration
0	2	3	4

- e. Will this project involve contributions by research students (e.g., Honours, Masters, internship, higher degree by research)?

No	Yes
0	2



2. Project Quality & Feasibility

Potential score 60

- a. How likely does it seem that the project is going to answer the proposed question? Consider the methodology and proposed approach to answering the research question.

Almost certainly will not	25:75 (probably will not)	50:50 (maybe, maybe not)	75:25 (probably will)	Almost certainly will
0	5	10	15	20

- b. How feasible is the project, given the timeframe and proposed budget?

Not feasible	Some aspects may fall short	Very feasible
0	10	20

- c. To what extent have project risks been identified, with appropriate mitigations put in place?

Inadequate assessment / high residual risk	Moderate residual risk	Low residual risk
0	5	10

- d. To what extent will this research project facilitate ongoing research?

This will almost certainly be a 'one-off'	This could lead to further research, including collaborations if parties are motivated	This will likely lead to ongoing research, including research collaborations
0	5	10

3. Budget

Potential score 20

- a. Assuming the project goes to plan, to what extent does it represent value for money to VWA?

Not at all	A little	To a moderate extent	To a large extent	A great deal
0	5	10	15	20

Overall

Potential score 100