

# factsandstats

## Volunteers

Community sport and recreation relies heavily on volunteers to survive. Volunteers are people who choose freely to give their time to organisations or groups in the community for no monetary reward.<sup>1</sup> Sport and recreation is one of several sectors in the economy that benefits from volunteers.

Voluntary work is an enormous source of social capital and contributes directly to the growth and development of social networks and social cohesion in our communities. Volunteers also have a vital role to play in providing opportunities for all Western Australians to have physically active lifestyles.

### Participation in Volunteering

#### Volunteers in sport or recreation organisations in 2002<sup>2</sup>

The most recent data shows that 187,200 Western Australians and 1.76 million Australians volunteered for sport or recreation organisations. In Western Australia, this represents 36.9 per cent of all volunteers (507,700) and 13.1 per cent of the adult population (1.4 million).

Of all Western Australians who volunteered for a sport or recreation organisation, 53 per cent volunteered for sport and recreation only while 47 per cent also volunteered for at least one other organisation.

#### Volunteer participation rates in 2002 by type of organisation

Type of organisation	Western Australia (%)*	Australia (%)
Sport/recreation/hobby only	7	6.2
Sport/recreation/hobby and at least one other organisation	6.2	5.9
At least one organisation but not sport/recreation/hobby	22.5	22.3
Did not volunteer	64.4	65.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note that percentages are rounded figures, therefore, the sum of the participation rates differs slightly from the total.

Just over two thirds of Western Australians (64.2 per cent) who volunteered in sport and recreation organisations were male. This compares to 50.4 per cent of volunteers across all organisations that were male.



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## Volunteers with a sports involvement in 2000

Four million Australian and 428,600 Western Australian adults undertook voluntary work. Sports organisations had the largest number of volunteers, with 1.14 million Australian and 120,700 Western Australian volunteers aged 18 years and over.<sup>3</sup>

### Volunteer participation rates in 2000<sup>4</sup>

Type of volunteer	Western Australia (%)	Australia (%)
Volunteers with a sports involvement	9.1	8.2
Other volunteers	23.1	23.5
<b>Total volunteers</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>31.8</b>

- 60.2 per cent of volunteers with a sport involvement in Australia were male.<sup>5</sup>
- 83.8 per cent of volunteers with a sports involvement in Australia were employed. In addition, 60.0 per cent of volunteers with a sports involvement had a full time job. This compares to only 46.4 per cent of all volunteers who had a full time job.<sup>6</sup>
- The majority (84.3 per cent) of volunteers with a sports involvement were born in Australia. This compares to 77.1 per cent of all volunteers.<sup>7</sup>

## Participation of volunteers with a sport involvement by age<sup>8</sup>

Australians aged 35 to 44 years were the most likely to be volunteers with a sports involvement.

### Participation rates of volunteers with a sports involvement in Australia in 2000 by age

Age group	Proportion (%) <sup>*</sup>
18 to 24	12.9
25 to 34	21.6
35 to 44	31.4
45 to 54	20.5
55 and over	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Note that percentages are rounded figures, therefore, the sum of the participation rates differs slightly from the total.

- Volunteers with a sport involvement were younger than other volunteers, with a median age of 40 years compared to 44 years.

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## Regional Volunteers

- Western Australia was the state with the highest rate of volunteering for regional areas (44.6 per cent).<sup>9</sup>

## The value of volunteers

- The value of volunteers' contribution to Australian sport and recreation was conservatively valued at \$1.6 billion annually.<sup>10</sup>
- In Western Australia, volunteers contributed \$778.8 million into the economy in 2000.<sup>11</sup>
- Australians undertaking voluntary work for sports organisations spent almost 130 million hours working for these organisations. This is almost one fifth (19 per cent) of the total number of hours contributed by all volunteers in 2000.<sup>12</sup>
- Almost a third of the people in Western Australia were volunteers and contributed 70.8 million hours of unpaid work in the community.<sup>13</sup>
- 47.5 per cent of volunteers in Western Australia had volunteered for more than 10 years.<sup>14</sup>

## Managing Volunteers

An important aspect of volunteering for the sport and recreation industry is the management of volunteers. Recruitment and retention of a capable pool of volunteers is essential to the viability of most sporting organisations. A volunteer coordinator must understand why people volunteer and the benefits they wish to gain. This allows a coordinator to tailor positions for certain people and will help in establishing a recruitment strategy.

## Reasons for volunteering in Western Australia<sup>15</sup>

The main reason for being a volunteer in Western Australia was to "help others/community".

### *Reasons for volunteering in Western Australia in 2000*

Reason*	Proportion (%)
To help others/community	48.7
Personal Satisfaction	40.5
Personal/family Involvement	30.2
To do something worthwhile	26.3
To use skills/experience	15.5
Social contact	13.7

\*Volunteers could give more than one reason

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## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2003). Australia's sports volunteers, 2000. Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author. p1.
- <sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. General social survey – summary results, Australia 2002. Unpublished data.
- <sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2003). Australia's sports volunteers, 2000. op. cit. p5.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid. p5.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid. p6.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid. p11.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid. p9.
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid. p8.
- <sup>9</sup> Government of Western Australia. (2001). Volunteering in Western Australia: trends and patterns 1995 to 2000. Perth, Western Australia: Department of the Premier and Cabinet. p9.
- <sup>10</sup> Confederation of Australian Sport. (1998). Economic impact of sport. Sport. 18 (Autumn). p10.
- <sup>11</sup> Government of Western Australia. (2001). Volunteering in Western Australia: trends and patterns 1995 to 2000. op. cit. p6.
- <sup>12</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2003). Australia's sports volunteers, 2000. op. cit. p17.
- <sup>13</sup> Government of Western Australia. (2001). Volunteering in Western Australia: trends and patterns 1995 to 2000. op. cit. p6.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid. p1.
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid. p18.