



positionstatement

Volunteers

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) values, encourages and supports volunteering in order to secure the future delivery of sport and recreation opportunities for communities throughout Western Australia.

Background

The organisations that deliver sport and recreation services in Western Australia, and the volunteers who create and sustain these organisations, make a vital contribution to the needs of the community.

- Sport and recreation volunteers (187,200 persons) represent 35.2 per cent of all volunteers in Western Australia.¹
- Forty-seven per cent of sport and recreation volunteers also volunteered for at least one other organisation.²
- The majority of volunteer work is carried out by people aged 35 to 54 years.²
- The volunteer contribution to the Australian sport sector is conservatively valued at \$1.6 billion.²

DSR recognises the importance of the sport and recreation sector, and its volunteers, in developing social capital and providing physical activity opportunities for all Western Australians.

Trends such as busy lifestyles and changing family structures are making it more challenging for sport and recreation organisations to recruit and retain volunteers. Organisations must have a volunteer management program that is innovative and flexible if they are to meet the needs and expectations of the modern volunteer.

DSR is a signatory to Valuing Volunteers – A Shared Vision.³

Definitions

Volunteering is an activity where people donate their time and effort, of their own free will and without financial gain, sharing their knowledge, expertise and skills for the benefit and wellbeing of others and the community.³

Contacts

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¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2002). *General Social Survey: Summary of results*. (No. 4159.0). Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author.

² Economic Impact of Sport. *Sport*, 18 (1), pp. 10-13, 1998.

³ Government of Western Australia. (2002). *Valuing volunteering – A Shared vision*. Perth, Western Australia: Department of Community Development.

Resources

Department of Sport and Recreation. (2004) *Volunteer Management Tool Kit*. Perth, Western Australia: Government of Western Australia.

Department of Sport and Recreation. (2004) *Clubs' Guide to Volunteer Management*. Perth, Western Australia: Government of Western Australia.

Useful Websites

Department of Sport and Recreation
www.dsr.wa.gov.au/volunteers

Volunteering Australia
www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Volunteering WA
www.volunteer.org

Department of Community Department Volunteering Secretariat
www.community.wa.gov.au/volunteers

Australian Sports Commission
www.ausport.gov.au