



Future foundations for giving

What is in the philanthropy draft report for **volunteers**?

Volunteers make a **significant and valued contribution to the Australian community**. While volunteering is widespread in Australia, the formal volunteering rate has declined.

The Commission heard why people are not volunteering and several ways governments could better recognise and support the contribution of volunteers:

Australian Bureau of Statistics surveys **rarely contain detailed questions on volunteering**, which could inhibit policy makers recognising and understanding the contribution volunteers make.

Data on volunteering can help people design policies to encourage giving.



Regulations (such as volunteer checks that unnecessarily duplicate other checks) may be a **disincentive for people to volunteer**.



Work or family commitments and financial constraints (such as cost of living pressures) on volunteers are common reasons for people not volunteering.



The Commission's draft report:



Recommends **ways to maintain and improve the usefulness of public information sources on volunteering**, such as by adding questions to the Census on informal volunteering (draft recommendation 9.5) and collecting data on corporate volunteering (draft recommendation 9.3).



Recommends **governments at all levels consider the effects on volunteers** when designing policies and programs, including adopting measures that may mitigate any adverse effects on volunteer participation (draft recommendation 7.5).



Recommends changes to the deductible gift recipient (DGR) system so that around **6,000 additional volunteer-run charities** would have easier access to DGR status (draft recommendation 6.1).

