

MEDIA RELEASE

MONDAY 17 MAY 2021

National Volunteer Week 17 – 23 May 2021

Queensland's First State of Volunteering Report Uncovers the True Value of Volunteering

Today Volunteering Queensland will launch the first State of Volunteering in Queensland 2021 Report. The report found that, remarkably, 3 million people (over 75% of the population) volunteered 900 million hours in 2020, a year that was challenging for all.

“We have always believed that the majority of Queenslanders volunteer in some way. Now we have the evidence to confirm that, with over 3 million Queenslanders volunteering – that’s a participation rate of 75.7% and certainly something we should all be proud of and celebrate”

“Whilst we now have evidence of the high participation rate in both informal and formal volunteering, there are still many challenges facing the volunteering sector. 38% of volunteer-involving organisations saw a decrease in their volunteer numbers, with time and health reasons being the main barriers to people being able to volunteer” said Mara Basanovic, CEO, Volunteering Queensland.

The report has uncovered the true value of volunteering in the State, with volunteers contributing almost \$84 billion in value to the Queensland community.

Another astounding finding is the size of the volunteer workforce in Queensland. The volunteer workforce is three times the size of the Queensland Government and nearly as big as the private sector. The cost to replace the labour of this workforce in 2020 would have been approximately \$37.1 billion.

“We have always known that volunteering is a valuable contributor to Queensland’s economy. Now we have the hard facts, each year volunteering contributes almost \$84 billion to our state.

Not only does volunteering contribute almost \$84 billion annually to the community, it also offers a significant return on investment. For every \$1 invested in volunteering, it delivers a return of \$4.10 back to the community.” continued Mara Basanovic, CEO, Volunteering Queensland.

Queenslanders are motivated to volunteer to help each other, the simple act of giving. As we celebrate National Volunteer Week 2021, we recognise the selfless act of over 3 million Queenslanders who are giving their precious time for an average 5.7 hours every week to help others.

On Friday 21 May, as National Volunteer Week comes to an end, Volunteering Queensland will be celebrating these remarkable volunteers at the Queensland Volunteer Awards.

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Media Opportunities:

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In person event	Virtual event
When: Monday 17 May 2021, 7.45 – 9.00am Where: Sofitel Brisbane Central Talent for interviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mara Basanovic, CEO, Volunteering Queensland• Rikki Anderson, Senior Manager Services, Volunteering Queensland• Paul Muller, Lead Researcher, Institute of Project Management	When: Monday 17 May 2021, 7.45 – 9.00am Where: https://volunteeringqld.org.au/nvw/events/131-nvw/nvw-events/1968-state-of-volunteering-in-queensland-report-launch-nvw