



Background:

The *Volunteering Strategy for SA 2014-2020* was launched in 2014 as a collaborative blue print for action between volunteer involving organisations, business, local government and state government.

The signatory partner agencies responsible for the volunteering strategy are:

- Minister for Human Services (representing the Government of South Australia and supported by the Office for Volunteers)
- Volunteering SA&NT (representing volunteer involving organisations and supported by regional volunteer centres)
- Local Government Association of SA (representing local councils and supported by the Local Government Volunteer Manager's Network)
- Business SA (representing business and industry in South Australia).

The VSSA Partnership Board, made up of representatives from each signatory partner agency plus an independent Chair, oversees the implementation of the VSSA.

Curriculum of Giving

In 2016, Volunteering SA&NT and the Department for Education brought the idea of embedding student volunteering in South Australian primary and secondary schools to the VSSA to be considered for action. As a result, a working group began to promote the resource *Fostering a culture of giving: Volunteering and the Australian Curriculum* to the education and volunteering sectors. The aim was to provide safe opportunities in education settings for young South Australians to learn about and get involved in volunteering. Members of this group and other champions of student volunteering have continued to meet since to inform this work.

In May 2018, more than 100 delegates from government, independent and Catholic education sectors (including students), volunteering and not-for-profit organisations, business, local government, and state government agencies attended the first 'Curriculum of giving student volunteer workshop' to learn strategies to encourage student learning and improve wellbeing through volunteering. A second workshop will be delivered in May 2019.

In July 2018, the Department for Education released a range of online student volunteering teacher tools to support educators in embedding volunteer principles and practices into everyday classroom activity. The tools can be used to plan for and deliver learning about volunteering, facilitating opportunities for all students to be exposed to the benefits of a curriculum of giving. The resources are free for use by schools.

VSSA Priority Areas

In November 2017, a mid-term review of the VSSA was completed by Anne Skipper AM. The review recommended a new model for the strategy, in which two working groups would focus on two priority areas from 2019 onwards. The priorities are:

1. Volunteering as a pathway to employment for young people
2. Enhancing regional communities through volunteering

These were further discussed at a plenary session held in December 2017, and a stakeholder workshop held in April 2018. The proposed priority projects outlined in the Expressions of Interest form are a direct response to this consultation.