

Foreword

The contribution of volunteers in our preschools and schools is important in creating environments that enhance learning opportunities for all children and students.

Volunteers coach sporting teams, help children to learn to read, work on grounds development, provide accommodation for visiting students, mentor students and contribute to decision making as members of governing councils, management groups and parent groups.

Every year thousands of community members share their skills and knowledge to support preschool and school communities

In turn volunteers gain personal satisfaction from contributing and from having opportunities to share and gain new skills and experiences.

The Government of South Australia recognises the value of volunteering and is committed to supporting the growth of the volunteer sector.

South Australia's Strategic Plan outlines a vision to build a strong community which will contribute to the quality of life and create opportunities for all South Australians.

This brochure supports the government's commitment to ensuring volunteers continue to play a vital role in our community.

Jennifer Rankine

Minister for Volunteers
Minister Assisting in Early Childhood Development

How can I become a volunteer?

The best way is to contact your local preschool or school by phone and make an appointment.

The director or principal will discuss a range of opportunities for you to consider. You may be asked to provide some further information about your skills and interests to consider your volunteering role and the best use of your time and expertise.

If you become a volunteer you will be supported through an induction program and provided with relevant training.

Anyone can offer to volunteer

- parents or carers
- grandparents
- community members
- business and industry members
- friends in a volunteer organisation
- students at school or university
- refugees and new migrants
- members of service groups
- international students
- past students
- senior citizens

Volunteering in preschools and schools is packed with variety... and you could

- support literacy success by reading to children, listening to reading or helping with writing programs
- help with multi-cultural events, local history projects, art, drama productions, healthy eating programs
- help support Learning Assistance Programs (LAP)
- join the Governing Council or Management Committee
- be a member of the parent club or network
- give support with camps or excursions
- coach sport
- mentor young people
- support fundraising
- help in the school canteen
- support student volunteer activities
- take part in working bees to improve the grounds
- contribute your IT skills
- support in the library
- assist with electives
- contribute expertise to specific projects



VOLUNTEERING VOLUNTEERING VOLUNTEERING

What volunteers say about volunteering in preschools and schools

- *It's been great to feel I am giving back to the community*
- *I feel I have added value to children's learning*
- *I can see how my contribution has supported the preschool program and priorities*
- *I didn't realise I had so many skills to share*
- *I feel I have made a positive contribution to my child's school*
- *The staff have been so supportive*
- *It's fun learning with children*
- *I feel valued*
- *I feel a sense of belonging*
- *I feel I am making a difference for kids*
- *It's been good to be able to bring our community views to school decision making*
- *I've discovered new things by going on excursions*
- *My confidence has increased*
- *It's led to me getting a paid job*
- *It's given me wonderful memories*
- *I have contributed positively to the education of many children and students*
- *Its great to make a positive difference*

Department of Education and Children's Services

We are committed to supporting volunteers and volunteering to strengthen partnerships for learning.

The valued role of all community members is a significant and long standing feature of public education and care.

The quality of education and care is enhanced by the culturally rich and diverse experiences brought by volunteers.

Volunteers make an important contribution to supporting the engagement, achievement and well-being of all children and students.

For further information contact the department by visiting the website at

www.decs.sa.gov.au/volunteers/

Phone: 08 8226 1000 or 08 8226 3213



Government of South Australia
Department of Education and
Children's Services

WHY NOT TRY VOLUNTEERING IN A PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL?

