



Value of Volunteering in South Australia

Highlights of 'The Economic Value of Volunteering in South Australia' report

In 2011, the Office for Volunteers commissioned Dr Duncan Ironmonger of the University of Melbourne to prepare a new The Economic Value of Volunteering in South Australia report. The report highlights the enormously valuable contribution volunteers make to South Australia's economy and community. A copy of the full report is available by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au

The value of volunteering today

The Economic Value of Volunteering in South Australia report reveals that the value of South Australia's volunteers efforts have more than doubled since 1992 and are today worth more than \$4.89 billion annually. Their hard work and dedication equates to a volume of work equivalent to 107,400 jobs across the State.

Volunteering was worth \$2.4 billion to the State's economy in 1992, growing to \$4.9 billion in 2006. A significant contribution to the South Australian economy adding up to 7.7 per cent of the State's 'Gross State Product' (GSP).

In addition:

- Volunteers provided a volume of work equivalent to 87,000 full time jobs in 1992 rising to 107,400 in 2006.
- This volunteer effort was equivalent to 13.9 per cent of the paid number of people employed in South Australia in 1992 and 14.2 per cent in 2006.
- This adds up to several thousands more volunteers than the total number of people employed (13 per cent) in the health care and social assistance industry in South Australia of 68,400 in 1992 and 97,500 in 2006.
- There has been an 11 per cent rise in the average total hours an individual adult spends volunteering in South Australia over the 15 years from 1992 to 2006.
- In dollar terms in the 15 years from 1992 to 2006 South Australian adults, on average, increased their donation of volunteering time and associated costs by 86 per cent from \$2,156 to \$4,020 per annum.
- Of all the age groups, the 55-64 years group gave the highest contribution of \$1,618 per adult in 2008 and \$1,754 in 2010.
- Overall, women in South Australia contributed an estimated \$734 million dollars of time and other inputs to volunteer organisations in 2006. In comparison, South Australian men's donation was less, about \$616 million.
- Regional South Australians contributed approximately \$408 million to their communities in terms of organised volunteering in 2006. Volunteering through organisations of those living in Adelaide was estimated to be worth \$943 million.

The future value of volunteering in South Australia

- The report reveals that, in future years, Australia's ageing population is likely to have effects on volunteering, mostly on the demand for support for adults rather than for children.
- In the years ahead, this demand is likely to be met largely by unorganised volunteering – Australians directly helping each other, from one household to another.
- In 2021, the report presents some interesting projections about what the future value of volunteering in South Australia might be. You can check out these projections by reading pages 24-27 of the full report at www.ofv.sa.gov.au.
- In summary, Dr Ironmonger highlights that it seems likely that volunteering in South Australia will be maintained at something like current levels, in the future. However, the future of volunteering in our State, ultimately rests with all South Australians.

“The attitudes of South Australians, the social relationships between households and the ways in which the thousands of volunteer organisations in South Australia grow, develop and operate, will determine what happens to volunteering in South Australia. The future of South Australian volunteering lies in the hands of its population and institutions” – Dr Duncan Ironmonger

How is the value of volunteering calculated?

In this latest report for South Australia, the overall value of volunteering has been calculated by adding together the value of organised volunteering (through an organisation or group), unorganised volunteering (not mediated through an organisation), and the cost of volunteer travel.

The figures in this report have been calculated by using the latest surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Time Use in 1992, 1997 and 2006 and on Voluntary Work in 1995, 2000 and 2006.

In a first for South Australia, the volunteer participation surveys conducted by Harrison Research in 2006, 2008 and 2010, have also been used to explore 'Volunteering in South Australia through Organisations' and help make some predictions in the report about the future of volunteering - right up to the year 2021.

Further information

Download your free copy of The Economic Value of Volunteering in South Australia Report by visiting www.ofv.sa.gov.au. For further information please contact the Office for Volunteers by phoning 8463 4490.



Government
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Office for Volunteers



International Year of Volunteers
10th Anniversary
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