

This charter has been developed by the Town of Gawler (Council) in conjunction with the Government of South Australia and representatives of volunteer organisations within the Town of Gawler.

Volunteers contribute to and support the fundamental values of a healthy community. Volunteering encourages individuals of diverse backgrounds and cultures to serve the community in a variety of ways. This involvement is a practical expression of the willingness of the community to be responsible for itself.

The Charter acknowledges volunteering and outlines strategies to promote and facilitate its growth.

This Charter defines a framework for partnerships between organisations involved, or capable of being involved in volunteering.

We will ...

- publicly recognise the efforts and successes of volunteers and those who support them.
- encourage volunteer participation across age-groups, abilities and cultures.
- promote partnerships between government, community groups, businesses and individuals to support volunteers.
- sustain our volunteer community by providing access to appropriate resources, including facilities, support, advice, information and training.



TOWN OF GAWLER

Volunteer Charter

Roles and Responsibilities

The Town of Gawler

Role

The Town of Gawler (Council) recognises its role as a community leader with a responsibility to support and encourage local volunteering. This is demonstrated by the establishment of the Gawler Volunteering Advisory Committee, (GVAC) and the Gawler Volunteer Resource Centre (GVRC). The Town of Gawler will facilitate the implementation of the strategies contained within the Charter and continue to foster a culture of trust and open communication between Council and volunteers.

Responsibilities

The Town of Gawler will ...

- provide community leadership that supports, encourages and values volunteering,
- continue to build and maintain its own volunteer program for the benefit of the community,
- promote the success and positive impact of volunteering within the community,
- provide for the management of the Gawler Volunteer Resource Centre,
- provide support for the Gawler Volunteering Advisory Committee,
- provide resources for the implementation of the Volunteering Strategies,
- develop and maintain strong communication links with volunteers and relevant bodies including State Government departments and Parliament.
- identify needs and trends within the volunteer sector, and
- develop partnerships that support volunteering.

The Gawler Volunteering Advisory Committee

Role

The Gawler Volunteering Advisory Committee (GVAC) has been established by the Town of Gawler to provide advice and feedback to the Council on matters relating to volunteering in the area. Where appropriate, GVAC will assist Council staff in the management of the Gawler Volunteer Resource Centre (GVRC) and in the implementation of the Gawler Volunteering Strategies.

Responsibilities

The GVAC will ...

- undertake the role of a local representative body for volunteering,
- develop and encourage volunteering in Gawler,
- ensure volunteer efforts are recognised and valued by Council and the community,
- act as a communication link from the volunteer community to Council,
- provide the Council with information and advice on matters affecting volunteering,
- assist Council staff with the implementation of the Volunteering Strategies,
- undertake periodic reviews of the Volunteering Strategies and make recommendations to Council on changes needed,
- ensure that GVRC addresses the needs of the volunteering community,
- ensure that current information and training opportunities are available to the volunteering community,
- ensure that the GVRC develops and maintains an up-to-date volunteer data base, and
- provide advice to Council staff for submission to Council on the annual budget for the GVRC.

Local Community Organisations

Role

Community organisations are encouraged to function efficiently and to manage their volunteer resources well. They should be active in the promotion of volunteer success and in providing opportunities for further volunteering.

Responsibilities

Local community organisations will be encouraged to ...

- cooperate with the GVAC and use the GVRC,
- promote volunteering in their own and other spheres, and
- develop and maintain good management practices.



Signatories

We the undersigned, support the Gawler Volunteer Charter believing it to be an appropriate basis for the further development of volunteering in Gawler.

Signed	Position/organisation	Date
	Mayor Brian Sambell Town of Gawler	May 17 th 2007
	Hon Jennifer Rankine MP Minister for Volunteers	May 17 th 2007
	Mr. Les Kemp - Chairperson Gawler Volunteering Advisory Committee	May 17 th 2007
	Mr. Matthew Sanders - Chairperson Gawler Business Development Board	May 17 th 2007

The Government of South Australia

Role

Through South Australia's Strategic Plan 2007, the South Australian Government commits to building better communities and maintaining the current high level of volunteering at above 50% participation rate or higher.

The Advancing the Community Together Partnership (ACT Partnership) between the Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government provides a framework to help achieve these goals. The Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group (VMAG) was formed by the South Australian Government in 2003 to provide the volunteer sector with a direct voice to government. The South Australian Government will support volunteering in Gawler as outlined in the partnership framework document, 'Advancing the Community Together.'

Responsibilities

The aims of the ACT Partnership, on behalf of the State Government, are to ...

- acknowledge the value of volunteering in our community,
- plan for the future of volunteering in South Australia,
- establish a framework for ongoing partnerships, and
- promote and facilitate volunteering in a manner that benefits the community.