New to Australia?
Come and Volunteer!

In Australia, one way people can help the community is called Volunteering. This is not paid work. People volunteer for many reasons:

- Meet new people
- Help the local community
- Learn about Australia
- Help improve your English
- Learn new skills or share your skills with others
- Get experience to help to get a paid job

There are so many volunteer helping roles – anything you can think of!

People can volunteer in the outdoors for the environment, in schools, helping older and younger people, with animals and even in hospitals. You could also help people in need or living with a disability, with emergency services, lifesaving at the beach or with sports.

These are just a few examples, there are many more ways to volunteer!

It is important that whatever volunteer role you choose, it is something you are interested in.

You can find volunteer helping roles in many ways:

- You can ask family or friends.
- If you see a community service in your area, you can ask about volunteering.
- Outside of Sydney, and in regional areas, the local council or Volunteer Resource Centre can help you.
- Ask The Centre for Volunteering https://www.volunteering.com.au/about/get-in-touch/ or your local council for help to find your nearest Volunteer Resource Centre.

New to Australia?
Come and Volunteer!

Many volunteer roles are advertised online. Click on the links below to have a look.

Roles in New South Wales – The Centre for Volunteering
https://www.volunteering.com.au/

Roles throughout Australia – Go Volunteer
https://govolunteer.com.au/volunteering/in-new-south-wales-nsw

SEEK Volunteer
https://www.volunteer.com.au/

Volunteer helping roles on social media
Facebook – Volunteer roles in Sydney
https://www.facebook.com/groups/volunteersydney/
Instagram – Volunteer roles in Sydney
http://www.instagram.com/sydneyvolunteer

For outside NSW, check with your state peak body for volunteering
https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/contact/#/State/Territory-Peak-Bodies

Before you apply, it is a great idea to have one or two good character referees' details ready to give. If you are very new to Australia, this may be a family member or a friend. Have a look at the website or social media of the organisation to get an idea of what they do in the community.

When you find a volunteer helping role, it might take time to start volunteering after you apply.

Before you start, a coordinator can help you complete an Australian Police Check and other checks you may need before starting. These are a legal requirement from the Australian and State governments to help keep everyone safe.

New to Australia?

Come and Volunteer!

To volunteer with children under 18, you need to apply for a free Working with Children Check. In New South Wales you can apply online by clicking on the link below. If you need help to apply, go to a Service NSW centre. https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/working-children-check

Volunteer helpers have rights and obligations when volunteering. Click on the link below for a list in English of your rights and obligations as a volunteer. https://govolunteer.com.au/about-volunteering/volunteering-guidelines

If you are looking for paid work, make sure you include your volunteering experience on your CV or resume.

Volunteering experience shows potential employers you are making a commitment to the community. This can help you when you apply for paid work and show you how Australian workplaces operate. Volunteering lets you try new roles before applying for paid work.

Join the millions of Australians who volunteer!