

SCS-047 Volunteer Policy

TRIM Reference: D19/157148 Due for Review: November 2022
Responsible Officer: Manager Community Strengthening

Purpose

This policy outlines Surf Coast Shire Council's (Council) commitment to volunteering in our Shire.

Volunteers are integral to a strong community and make a valuable contribution to community life – environmentally, socially and economically.

Council appreciates those in our community who volunteer their time and a wide range of skills, expertise and experience. Their efforts are highly valued and represent a significant contribution towards the strength and success of our community.

Council also acknowledge the extensive research that points to the health benefits of social connections and sees volunteering as a way to support these connections.

This is consistent with Council's purpose: We exist to help our community and environment to thrive.

Policy Principles

This policy provides the framework through which volunteers will be recognised and supported by Council.

Scope

This Policy applies to:

- Council
- Committees with delegated authority from Council;
- Advisory and other groups with Council adopted Terms of Reference; and
- Staff

Policy

Surf Coast Shire Council:

- a) Recognises the valuable contribution of volunteers and the community benefit they create;
- b) Acknowledges that Council is just one of the many organisations that engage and support volunteers;
- c) Commits to aligning with the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement 2015; and
- d) Supports volunteering across the Surf Coast Shire as best it can within available resources.

Definitions

Council uses Volunteering Australia's Definition of Volunteering 2015:

- Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.

Related Procedure

Management Procedures:

- Volunteering; and
- Volunteer Recognition

References

Local Government Act 1989
Workplace Health and Safety Act 2004
National Standards for Volunteer Involvement 2015
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014

See also - research on the health benefits gained through Volunteering, such as:

<https://www.nib.com.au/the-checkup/community/national-volunteer-week-4-surprising-health-benefits-of-volunteering>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5504679/>

<https://headtohealth.gov.au/meaningful-life/purposeful-activity/volunteering>

<https://sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2017/05/03/7-surprising-benefits-of-volunteering-.html>

<https://www.trenchhealth.com.au/articles/VolunteerForHappiness.pdf>

<https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1150&context=lcp>

Document History

Version	Document History	Approved by – Date
1	<i>New policy</i>	<i>Council Resolution – 26 November 2019</i>