



RENMARK PARINGA COUNCIL VOLUNTEER STRATEGY



Renmark Paringa
Council

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AIM OF THE STRATEGY

This strategy outlines our vision for volunteering in the Renmark Paringa Council District. Its purpose is to guide our own volunteering activities and how we can support volunteering in the wider community

BACKGROUND

The Volunteering in South Australia 2018 survey report conducted by Harrison Research indicates that an estimated 906,000 South Australians donate their time and energy to contribute to the community. These efforts contribute to an estimated 1.73 million hours per week.



Register an interest to volunteer via Council's website

Interview with Council

Volunteer pre-commencement checks

Appointment

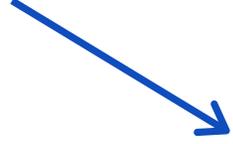
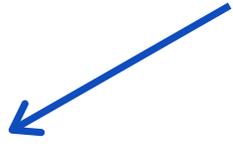
Volunteer Induction

Site / Program specific training

Volunteering at Renmark Paringa Council

Resignation / Farewell

COUNCIL'S ROLE



COUNCIL VOLUNTEERING

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER HUB

STARCLUB

The Chaffey Community Centre is the Volunteer Hub of Renmark Paringa Council and is the first port of call for anyone interested in volunteering for Council and in the community.

Riverland STARCLUB operates across the three Riverland Councils, and acts as a liaison between the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, and sporting and community groups in the region.

Councils volunteering sites are the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre, Renmark Paringa Library or Chaffey Community Centre.

The STARCLUB Community Development Officer's role within Renmark Paringa Council includes supporting service clubs, sporting clubs and community groups with volunteer recruitment and training, and can assist people in finding volunteer opportunities in the Riverland.

Opportunities for volunteer roles are available in administration, visitor servicing, events, operations or special projects.

There are various volunteering opportunities in the community which include areas such as committee positions, fundraising, events and club coordination and support.

The Volunteer Hub centralises Councils volunteer management system and streamlines the application process. This also enables volunteers to move between sites and be part of volunteering opportunities.

Register an interest to volunteer via Council's website

Interview with Council

Skills and interests noted

Volunteer skills and interest categorised in to Council or Community opportunities

Referral to STARCLUB Officer

STARCLUB Officer to direct volunteer to relevant community group



WHY HAVE A VOLUNTEER STRATEGY?

We are committed to encouraging, supporting and recognising the importance of volunteering in our local community. Besides having economic value, volunteering gives people a way to connect with, and help, others in their local community.

Having a Volunteer Strategy means we can:

- Respond to new and emerging trends around volunteering
- Identify future opportunities for volunteering across council
- Make sure we have relevant systems and processes in place to respond to the needs of the community
- Promote best practice in volunteering

ALIGNMENT WITH FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT VOLUNTEER STRATEGIES





Australian Government context

The National Volunteering Strategy is a call to action for governments, business, not-for-profit organisations and the Australian community. It recognises that creating and sustaining a stronger volunteering sector will require a whole-of-sector effort. The strategy explores emerging issues and challenges for the volunteering sector and provides a set of strategic directions to address them. These include:

- Responding to trends that are changing the way people volunteer
- Harnessing information technology
- Reducing the complexity of regulation and risk management requirements
- Strengthening volunteer management and training
- Improving advocacy for the sector
- Increasing the recognition of volunteers

State Government context

Working in partnership, Volunteering SA/NT, the State Government, the Local Government Association and Business SA recently developed the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia in response to the National Volunteering Strategy. This strategy explores the national directions and suggests the following focus areas for strengthening volunteering within the state:

- Investing in foundations of volunteering
- Promoting the benefits of volunteering
- Using best practice and high quality standards
- Continually looking at ways to improve volunteering

DOCUMENTS THAT SUPPORT THIS STRATEGY

Community Plan 2016-2020

A Positive Experience
Emerging Priority

- 4.3 Encourage all community members to consider volunteering
- 4.3.1 Foster and encourage volunteer participation with the Volunteer Hub
- 4.3.2 Remove unnecessary administrative barriers that discourage volunteering
- 4.3.3 Implement best practise volunteer management frameworks to ensure maximum benefit for both the volunteer, community and organisation

Community Development Strategy 2016-2020

Health & Wellbeing
Objective

- Promote volunteering in our modern community

FEDERAL
VOLUNTEER
STRATEGY

STATE
VOLUNTEER
STRATEGY

COMMUNITY
PLAN
2016 - 2020

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY
2016 - 2020

VISION FOR VOLUNTEERING

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY BY INSPIRING, VALUING AND CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERING

Strategic Objectives

To achieve this vision the following strategic objectives have been developed:

- Valuing and recognizing the contribution of volunteers across the community
- Matching volunteer needs and motivations to our volunteer opportunities
- Linking people to volunteer opportunities throughout the Renmark Paringa Council District
- Increasing skills and experience through volunteering
- Providing volunteering opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds and with special needs
- To promote and support volunteer opportunities in the community





Volunteer Strategic Objectives

Objective 1 - Valuing and recognising the contribution of volunteers across the community

We recognise the importance of promoting the achievements and contributions volunteers make to our local community. Active recognition and promotion of volunteer achievement is vital to keeping volunteers engaged. Volunteer management best practice suggests that any recognition of volunteers needs to be tailored to meet individual needs.

Objective 2 - Matching volunteer needs and motivations to our volunteer opportunities

People wanting to volunteer are often seeking roles that are flexible and they are motivated by positions that use their interests, skills and abilities. This includes the need for volunteer opportunities that are short or long term, or one-off, and give volunteers transferable skills.

Objective 3 - Linking people to volunteer opportunities through the Renmark Paringa Council District

We will work with community organisations in the areas of recruitment and promotion of their volunteering opportunities. We will develop referral opportunities to assist agencies seeking volunteers. We will continue to develop working relationships with key volunteer organisations to promote training in volunteer management to community-based organisations. The aim is to improve the ability of these organisations to attract and manage volunteers.

Objective 4 - Increasing skills and experience through volunteering

Volunteering is an important way for people to develop their skills and experience. Volunteering can assist in future employment opportunities and life long learning .

Objective 5 - Providing volunteering opportunities for people from diverse background and with special needs

In order to make our community more inclusive, we aim to provide volunteer opportunities to people from all different backgrounds and abilities.

Objective 6 - To promote and support volunteer opportunities in the community

Provide volunteer training and support to the community to assist in best volunteer management practices. As a supporter of best practice in volunteer management, we will implement and review our practices regularly to make sure they are in line with national standards.





MONITORING

We will monitor and report on the Volunteer Strategy by:

- Developing an action plan that outlines how Council will achieve the strategy's objectives

REPORTING

Our method of reporting will include:

- An annual report to Council detailing achievements of the Volunteer Strategy
- Quarterly reports via the Community Development Report

RECOGNITION

We will recognise community volunteers by:

- An annual volunteering event facilitated by Council to recognise significant contribution or service, aligned with Volunteer week. This could act as an opportunity to increase nominations for Australia Day awards

REFERENCES

National Volunteering Strategy (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2011)

Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2014 – 2020 (Volunteering SA/NT, Office for Volunteers, Business SA & Local Government Association of SA, 2014)

Renmark Paringa Council, Community Plan 2016 -2020

Renmark Paringa Council, Community Development Strategy 2016 – 2020



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