

Generation Impact: Students unleashing their superpower to transform communities

- A quarter (25%) of Australians aged 18-24 volunteer and of this number a whopping 90% have had a positive experience
- This year's National Student Volunteer Week (5-11 August 2024) theme, '*Generation Impact*', emphasises the unique ability of students to make a meaningful difference in their communities
- Volunteering Queensland, along with other State and Territory peak volunteering bodies, are encouraging students to consider the opportunity volunteering provides

EMBARGO: 5 August 2024 – In a world where young Australians are equipped with unparalleled energy and ideas, **National Student Volunteer Week 2024 (5-11 August)** seeks to harness this potential, positioning students as the vanguard of positive community change.

This year's theme, '*Generation Impact*', emphasises the unique ability of students to address societal challenges, drive change, create lasting positive impact, and make a meaningful difference amongst Australian communities.

There is a compelling need to grow the spirit of volunteering in younger generations to meet volunteering demand, with volunteering rates among 18-24-year-olds in Australia sitting around 25%, compared to a third (33%) of older Australians (65-74-years old) who volunteer¹.

State and Territory peak volunteering bodies are supporting a national group of volunteer student ambassadors to spotlight the pivotal role of student volunteers in building a united and resilient society.

Volunteering Queensland CEO, Jane Hedger, emphasises that the vision behind '*Generation Impact*' underscores the transformative power of student volunteers.

"Volunteering is young people's superpower! Students can leverage their energy and creativity to create significant community change. National Student Volunteer Week is a platform to showcase the diverse and flexible volunteering opportunities available to students.

"The challenges we face today are opportunities young people have to innovate and solve. By engaging in volunteer opportunities, they not only bolster youth volunteer rates but can enact real, impactful differences in their communities," says Jane.

The benefits of volunteering extend beyond altruism. It can be a significant career booster and a gateway to employment with most employers viewing volunteering experience positively. By volunteering, students develop valuable life experiences and skills, build resilience, enhance their resumes, and grow their sense of purpose².

"We are thrilled to be working with the student volunteers who have signed up as ambassadors to champion this cause. Their enthusiasm and commitment to hosting activities and promoting volunteering is truly infectious," says Jane.

Throughout National Student Volunteer Week, educational institutions, youth organisations, and volunteer groups across Australia will host various events to promote, encourage, and celebrate student volunteering. These events will offer students the opportunity to explore different volunteer roles, understand the benefits of giving back, and connect with like-minded peers.

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“Volunteering is more than just an extracurricular activity; it’s a critical component of building a better future for all Australians. We acknowledge and celebrate the significant contributions of current student volunteers and we hope to inspire more students to volunteer and make a difference.

“We are excited to see the innovative ways in which students will engage with their communities, as well as spread the word of volunteering during National Student Volunteer Week and beyond,” Jane concludes.

For more information about National Student Volunteer Week 2024 (#NSVW24) and how to get involved and become a volunteer, <https://www.nsvw.au/>.

About National Student Volunteer Week

Coordinated and delivered nationally by Volunteering Queensland since 2013 and supported by Volunteering Australia and all State and Territory Peak volunteering bodies, National Student Volunteer Week 2024 (#NSVW24) celebrates student volunteers and promotes volunteering to students and young people across Australia.

National Student Volunteer Week gives students the opportunity to lead others in connecting to their community and offering kindness. Students are provided with the chance to explore the personal and professional benefits of volunteering, which include valuable work experience, enhanced feelings of self-worth, refinement of values, increased understanding of people, local and global issues, and reduced social isolation. NSVW also recognises the significant skills, ideas, enthusiasm, creativity, and time that young people contribute through volunteering.

This year’s theme is “Generation Impact”.

About Volunteering Queensland

Volunteering Queensland is the state peak body solely dedicated to advancing volunteering for the economic, social, cultural & environmental well-being of Queensland.

About the Citations

1. <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/resources/key-facts-youth/>
2. <https://volunteeringqld.org.au/initiatives/national-student-volunteer-week/>