

Webinar Fact Sheet: Debunking Skilled Volunteering

The changing landscape of volunteering in Australia means that more and more individuals are looking to contribute more than just their time – they’re wanting to share their skills.

Skilled volunteering occurs on both an individual and an organisational level, and opens up opportunities for Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) and Not for Profit groups (NFP) to tap into corporate resources.

But what are the expectations of VIOs/NFPs when engaging skilled volunteers, and how do we balance those expectations with what a skilled volunteer might be seeking for themselves?

Skilled vs Corporate Volunteering

In an age of conscious consumerism, private sector companies and corporations are increasingly looking to build an ethical brand through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability programs.

Skilled Volunteering is...
The involvement of volunteers with a particular set of skills, often high level skills, which seeks to solve a problem or meet a particular organisational need.

Skilled Volunteering

Corporate Benefits

Demonstrates company values in action



Employer-Supported Volunteering programs (ESV) provide a great platform for corporations to build a positive brand and foster wellbeing and staff satisfaction. ESV can occur through team volunteer days, or can be established as more individualised volunteering opportunities.

How can VIOs and NFPs make the most of Skilled Volunteering?

Skilled volunteering can be a valuable way to bring highly valued skills into an organisation to assist with specific tasks and/or projects. Some of the benefits of involving skilled volunteers include:

1. It's a 'free' resource

Involving skilled volunteers still requires time and resources, but the benefit is that skilled volunteers can bring a level of insight and a set of highly valued skills which you might otherwise pay a consultant to bring to the table.

2. It adds capacity

Involving skilled volunteers can add capacity and take some of those 'pipe dream' tasks that may have been sitting at the top of the to-do list and turn them into actions.

3. It brings an external perspective

A skilled volunteer not only brings with them their skills and experience, but also the ability to consider things through a different lens. They can offer an external view which can be really valuable when we are working so closely with projects, clients and communities.

4. It builds relationships and expands networks

By tapping into a skilled volunteer – particularly if you're doing so through an ESV program and connecting with a larger company – you are also tapping into their networks. A positive experience for a skilled volunteer is not only a great brand building exercise for that individual, it's a great way to build a positive reputation for your organisation and program too!

Questions to consider when involving Skilled Volunteers

Key Questions:

1. What is the capacity of our organisation to take on a skilled volunteer?
2. Who is the best person to manage a skilled volunteer?
3. Do we have a defined goal/project/task that could benefit from a specific skill set?
4. What outcomes are we hoping for? What are we offering a potential volunteer?

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