

Volunteering for Centrelink Activity Requirements



Volunteering can be an effective pathway to employment. It can help you:

- Develop new skills
- Demonstrate the skills and qualities you have
- Expand your professional networks
- Get a reference
- Gain (or update) work experience for your resume
- Try out a new career option
- Test your limits (e.g. if you are recovering from an illness or injury)
- Improve your confidence in your abilities.

SEEK.com.au research found that employers believe volunteering gave jobseekers an advantage when applying for paid employment:

- 95% of employers agreed that volunteering can be a credible way of gaining real-work experience to add to your resume
- 85% of hirers believe that it's just as credible as paid work
- 92% of employers said relevant volunteer experience gives candidates an advantage in job interviews.

For many job seekers, approved volunteering activities can help fulfil Centrelink participation requirements*.



Not all volunteering opportunities are eligible to be counted as a Centrelink approved activity

To be considered for Centrelink approval, an organisation must complete a **Voluntary Work – Request for organisation approval form** and submit it to Centrelink. To be approved, the organisation must be:

- not-for-profit
- community based, with

appropriate insurance cover OR

- any government sector agency (e.g. hospital, school, council volunteer program).

NB: Private businesses, including private schools, hospitals and aged care facilities are NOT eligible for Centrelink volunteering approval.

Verification of volunteering for an approved organisation

Once an eligible applicant has been accepted as a volunteer with a Centrelink approved organisation, the organisation needs to complete a **Verification of Voluntary Work form**, which the volunteer then submits to Centrelink.

A volunteer can fulfil their Centrelink volunteer activity requirement by volunteering with more than one approved organisation at a time, provided the volunteer and the organisation have gone through the same approvals process for each role.

How to find a Centrelink Approved volunteering opportunity

Volunteering Queensland's website allows you to search for volunteering opportunities using a range of search options including positions that are **"Good for" Centrelink volunteers**. By selecting this option, you will only see positions that have been identified by the volunteer organisation as suitable for volunteers seeking to fulfil their Centrelink volunteering requirements.

For further assistance to find a suitable volunteering opportunity you can:

- Watch **this video** or **read this flyer** with further instructions on how to search for volunteer positions using our website
- Email helpdesk@volunteeringqld.org.au
- Call 3002 7600
- Make an appointment to come see us at our **Logan Hub, Wynnum Hub** or **Brisbane Office**, or our **Volunteer Resource Centre partners** around Queensland.

* For more general information about meeting Centrelink activity requirements, see **Volunteering Australia's Factsheet on changes to participation requirements** from 20 September 2018. For specific information about your personal Centrelink activity requirements contact Centrelink or your JobActive case manager.