

# Volunteering on a Visa

Most people travelling to Australia on a visa are eligible to volunteer during their stay. However, it is important to be aware of any restrictions individual visas may place on volunteer activities.

## Working Visas

Eligibility to volunteer depends on the type of working visa. A person with work restrictions may undertake voluntary work as long as the role is a genuine volunteer role and the volunteer does not receive remuneration for performing the role.

## Student Visas

Persons on a student visa may undertake voluntary work if study is the main purpose of their time in Australia and any voluntary work is incidental to this. The role must be a genuine volunteer role that has benefit to the community, with no remuneration received in return.

## Tourism Visas

Persons on a tourist visa may undertake voluntary work if tourism is the main purpose of their visit and any voluntary work is incidental to this. Volunteering work undertaken by a tourist should be on a short-term basis (generally three months or less), be a genuine volunteer role and provide benefit to the community. A visa is required for those who are visiting Australia and wish to volunteer while on holiday.

## Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO)

It is recommended that persons on a visa check the Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) system for regularly updated information on their visa conditions. The VEVO system allows visa holders to check their individual visa details and conditions. It is the responsibility of the visa holder to ensure their visa sub-class makes them eligible to engage in voluntary work.

## Where do I start?

Once you have confirmed that volunteering is permitted on your specific visa, you can begin to look for a volunteering role. One way to find suitable roles is to contact your closest Volunteering Support Service or Volunteer Resource Centre. You can also search the GoVolunteer website to view a list of current volunteering opportunities across Australia. If English is your second language, you can filter roles for 'People Learning English' under the 'Suitable for' option.

The GoVolunteer website can be found at: [www.govolunteer.com.au](http://www.govolunteer.com.au)

It is advisable, to wait until you are in the country to make sure that your chosen location is suitable for you and then contact the VSS or volunteer involving organisation of your choice. It is further suggested you visit the Department of Home Affairs website [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au) for up-to-date information regarding visas to Australia.