



Ms Sarah Wilson
Policy Manager
VolunteeringACT

Via: policy@volunteeringACT.org.au

2020 ACT Legislative Election

Dear Ms Wilson

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting the ACT Labor's position on matters important to Volunteering ACT. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The ACT Labor Government's focus now and through the next term, if we are fortunate enough to be returned to government, is to protect Canberrans' jobs, keep Canberrans healthy and safe, and help the local economy recover from the devastating global impact of Covid-19.

A range of groups have recently made contact with MLAs and candidates seeking information on our policies ahead of the election on 17 October 2020. As the ACT Labor Party Secretary and Campaign Director, I am pleased to respond to you and other groups on behalf of the Labor Party, its MLAs and candidates.

ACT Labor recognises the importance of volunteering in our community, in particular those volunteers who helped provide support to our community throughout the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACT Labor's comprehensive [Policy Position statement is available here](#). This document is not exhaustive but outlines our achievements over the past term, and the direction a re-elected Labor Government would take across a broad range of policy areas and issues facing our community. Many sections of this Statement go directly to issues of interest to your organisation's members.

ACT Labor embraces Canberra's reputation as a fair, welcoming and inclusive community that celebrates diversity in all its forms, which is why we have and will continue to implement policies that ensure equal participation of all members of the community.

If we are re-elected, a Labor Government will continue to engage with Volunteering ACT to promote volunteering across the ACT Public Service and the wider community. During this term, we have endeavoured to work with VolunteeringACT to support and promote volunteering. If re-elected we will

explore your proposals for expanded volunteering pathways and more research about volunteering.

ACT Labor’s response to each of your three election priorities is as follows:

Priority	ACT Labor Commitment
Appoint a Minister for Volunteering	The Minister for Community Services and Facilities is responsible for volunteering, and has taken this role and leadership on volunteering seriously throughout the term. A Re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to engage with you and to prioritise its relationship with Volunteering ACT.
Invest in a Volunteer Ready Program	<p>ACT Labor has created a range of avenues for community groups to apply for funding, and to receive that funding in a way that is transparent and meets the community’s expectations.</p> <p>If re-elected, ACT Labor will continue its range of funding sources and grant programs and will engage with Volunteering ACT to maximise opportunities to fund new initiatives like the Volunteer Ready program.</p>
Commission Research on the State of Volunteering in the ACT	ACT Labor will work with VolunteeringACT to develop research programs about volunteering, using the resources of the public service and through grants programs.

Our platform reflects strong support for organisations across Canberra that will both provide opportunities for volunteering and help volunteer support to flourish. ACT Labor is committed to continuing to strengthen and support the community sector, through grants, programs, and facilities.

ACT Labor’s comprehensive Policy Position Statement contains a range of supports for organisations that will engage volunteers in the ACT. I encourage you to share and discuss this document with your members, and other interested community members.

ACT Labor is providing it to all interested organisations and have published it on our website (actlabor.org.au), because we believe it is important for this active, informed electorate to be able to easily read and compare parties’ positions ahead of an election. In addition to the Policy Position Statement ACT Labor will continue to make detailed policy announcements throughout the election campaign on issues that matter to Canberrans.

Thank you again for your interest in ACT Labor's policy platform. ACT Labor MLAs and candidates look forward to continuing to serve the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa James

ACT Labor Campaign Director