



October 2020

Dear ACT Candidates,

**OPEN LETTER SEEKING YOUR COMMITMENT TO  
VOLUNTEERINGACT 2020 ELECTION PRIORITIES**

From bushfires to COVID-19 and everything in between, 2020 has surely been the year of the volunteer. Through consecutive crises, volunteers have been at the coalface of emergency response and recovery. And behind the scenes, volunteers and the organisations that support them have continued to deliver essential services in our community.

Volunteers span every aspect of our society, working in all sectors, and delivering significant impact that the government and private sector would not be able to achieve without them. It is time we recognise volunteers as an essential workforce and as the foundation of community wellbeing.

This election we are calling on all candidates and major parties to recognise and support volunteering in a meaningful way. We will be encouraging electors in our community to Vote for Volunteers, by supporting candidates who are willing to make a real commitment to the critical work that VolunteeringACT Members and their volunteers do every day.

As signatory to this letter we are asking all candidates to publicly state that if elected they will adopt VolunteeringACT's Election Priorities, including:

1. Appointing a Minister for Volunteering and establishing a Ministerial Advisory Council
2. Investing in a Volunteer Ready Program
3. Commissioning research on the State of Volunteering in the ACT

Volunteers deserve leadership, sustainability, and evidence. Now, more than ever, we need you to support volunteers so they can continue to do essential, lifechanging work.

Yours,



Dr Emma Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer  
ACT Council of Social Service



Marg Peachy  
President  
ACT Wildlife



Barnie Van Wyk  
Chief Executive Officer  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
Canberra/Goulburn



Camilla Rowland  
Chief Executive Officer  
Marymead Child & Family Centre



Heidi Prowse  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mental Illness Education ACT



Dr Justin Barker  
Executive Director  
The Youth Coalition of the ACT



Simon Viereck  
Executive Officer  
Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

Jenny Kitchen  
Chief Executive Officer  
Woden Community Service



Nicole Snuffing  
National Program Coordinator  
Feel the Magic

