



Media Release

2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants – Building Resilient Communities

2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants recipients announced

1 December 2020

32 Canberra-based Volunteer Involving Organisations will now be able to take the next steps to support the efforts of their volunteers, encourage participation in volunteering, and re-engage volunteers after a trying year, which saw more than 70 per cent of volunteers in the ACT stood down due to COVID-19.

VolunteeringACT announced the worthy recipients of the 2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants today, which provided a total of \$123,250 to local Volunteer Involving Organisations to encourage, support, and increase participation in volunteering in the Canberra region.

The 2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants are funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. These grants were administered in each state and territory to support the work of Australia's volunteers.

The grants, of between \$1,000 and \$5,000, will help organisations re-engage volunteers through a variety of approaches, including purchasing equipment items, covering transports costs of volunteers with disability, providing training, undertaking background screening checks, and delivering other re-engagement activities.

Volunteer Involving Organisations applying for the grants were required to demonstrate how their proposal would support and benefit the organisation's volunteers and the work they undertake for the broader community.

"We were overwhelmed with the volume of applications received which totaled well over \$400,000 in funding in the ACT alone. On average, 96 per cent of the workforce of organisations who applied are powered by volunteers," said Jean Giese, CEO, VolunteeringACT.

"Organisations are in desperate need of funds to support and enable their volunteering programs to continue to deliver the important work they do. The top three categories seeking funding were small equipment items, training, and financial support to adapt practices to safely welcome back volunteers in line with COVID-19 requirements.

"Over 3,500 volunteers in the ACT will directly benefit from this funding, which will assist them to continue doing their lifechanging work. We look forward to hearing about the outcomes of this funding from the worthy grant recipients," said Ms Giese.

To see the full list of grant recipients visit the VolunteeringACT [website](#).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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Insights into the 2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants in the ACT:

- 106 applications were received
- 32 Volunteer Involving Organisations received a grant
- \$407,831 in funding was applied for, with a total budget of \$123,250 available
- 96.8 per cent of the workforce of organisations who applied are volunteers
- Community services, education, youth, recreation, and sport (respectively) were the primary service focuses of organisations who applied
- The most popular items applied for were small equipment, training, re-engagement activities (as a result of COVID-19) and adapting practices (as a result of COVID-19) (respectively)
- The 32 organisations receiving funding will be able to benefit 3,560 of their volunteers collectively