

# VOLUNTEERING: A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Engaging in volunteer opportunities can improve your employment prospects and increase your likelihood of getting a job.

Volunteering gives you the opportunity to showcase your current skills and experience, while acquiring new skills and experience at the same time.

According to Seek, volunteering demonstrates valuable personality traits that can be hard to convey in an interview, for example: being motivated, socially responsible and proactive. It shows prospective employers a great deal about who you are, aside from what they have learned from your job application.



## Gain experience working with diverse people

According to Ethical Jobs, organisations prefer applicants who have the ability to work with a diverse range of community members.

As the most multicultural place in Australia, volunteering in the City of Greater Dandenong can provide you with exposure to a wide range of people. There are plenty of opportunities to work with diverse groups, and gain valuable insights to take into your next job.



## Increase your networks and connections



Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and expand your social network. In addition to making new friends, you can build professional connections that might give you a 'foot in the door' when seeking employment.

## Develop employability skills



Volunteering allows you to practice and refine your existing skills, while also developing new skills and experience. Some of these skills will be transferable across jobs (e.g. communication, team work and project management skills), while others may be relevant to a particular career or work field that you're interested in (e.g. teaching, child care or environmental conservation). You may also receive useful education and training opportunities.

## Find your passions and interests

If you're feeling unsure about which career path you want to pursue, volunteering is a great way to gain exposure to a variety of work fields. Through volunteering, you can learn more about yourself, your passions and interests, and what sorts of work you enjoy doing. This may provide you with some more guidance and direction when making future career decisions.



## Build your resume and make a positive impression

Volunteering provides you with additional skills and experience to showcase in your job application. Even though it's not paid employment, you can still list volunteering as work experience on your resume. You can also list your supervisor as a reference.

Employers will be impressed to see that you've developed essential skills, while giving up your spare time to volunteer for a good cause.



## FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED

For further information, please contact Youth & Family Services:

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