

SPORT VOLUNTEER COALITION COMMUNIQUE

Inaugural Meeting of the Sport Volunteer Coalition

Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Purpose

The purpose of the Coalition is to support Sport Australia to realise its vision for volunteering in the sports industry. This will be achieved through:

- Supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of a four-year year Sport Volunteer Coalition Plan that is developed to a high standard and is implementable
- To clearly communicate the plan to the Sector.

Members of the Sport Volunteer Coalition met for the first time on Wednesday 2nd March. The meeting provided an opportunity to build connections and understand the experience, expertise and perspective that each member brings to the Coalition. A key focus of the meeting was to commence discussion on how the Coalition can lead the sport sector to achieve the vision for the future of sport volunteering –

“People from all walks of life see and realise opportunities to contribute to individual, club and community goals in a way that suits them.”

Terms of Reference

The Coalition considered draft Terms of Reference for the Sport Volunteer Coalition. Following discussion on suggested amendments, members resolved to finalise the Terms of Reference out of session and prior to the next meeting.

Sport Volunteering – Current State

The Coalition received a presentation from Sport Australia on the current landscape of sport volunteering. This included key insights from the October 2021 AusPlay report [‘A focus on volunteering in sport’](#) and [‘The future of sport volunteering’](#) insights report.

Key insights discussed were:

- the under-representation of people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, people with disability, and the lowest income households in sport volunteering
- the proportion of non-playing roles in sport undertaken by volunteers
- the new challenges posed by COVID-19 on sport volunteers, and
- the broader benefits of volunteering in sport for individuals.

The Coalition resolved to seek further insights and data on engagement of people from under-represented communities in sport volunteering. The Coalition also resolved to seek additional data and insights to ensure the Coalition maintains a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities for volunteers in sport.

Sport Volunteering National Plan

The Coalition received a presentation from Sport Australia on the development and implementation of Sport Australia's Sport Volunteering National Plan. Members noted Sport Australia's role to 'Lead' and 'Activate' and the four-year horizon of the Plan. Members also noted the year one key activity to develop a Coalition Plan that supports the sport sector to realise the vision for sport volunteering — *"People from all walks of life see and realise opportunities to contribute to individual, club and community goals in a way that suits them"*.

The Coalition commenced discussions on how the Coalition Plan should be developed, and how the Coalition can lead the sport sector to achieve the vision for sport volunteering.

Volunteering Australia and the National Strategy for Volunteering

Volunteering Australia has received federal funding to lead development of a [National Strategy for Volunteering](#). This will be Australia's first National Strategy for Volunteering in ten years. The National Strategy will be designed and owned by the volunteering ecosystem and will provide a blueprint for a reimagined future for volunteering in Australia.

The Coalition received an update on the progress of the strategy's development and discussed the opportunities for the Coalition and the sport sector more broadly to contribute to development of the National Strategy for Volunteering.

National Volunteer Week 2022

The Coalition discussed the opportunities presented by [National Volunteer Week](#) (16 May – 22 May, 2022). The role and voice of the Coalition during National Volunteer Week was considered with further work to be completed on a marketing and communications plan for National Volunteer Week.

Sport Volunteer Coalition Members

- Dr Lindsey Reece – Sport Australia (Chair)
- Sarah Wilson – Volunteering Australia
- David Brett – NSW Government
- Jessica Cook – QLD Government
- Adam Weir – Surf Life Saving Australia
- Lisa Hasker – Vicsport
- Jamie Parsons – Badminton Australia
- Megan Carr – Golf Australia
- Alex Burgin – Australian Football League
- Molina Asthana – Multicultural Women in Sport
- Garry West-Bail – Australian Sporting Alliance for People with Disability