

# Volunteering WA

## Research Grant Program 2025-26

*Volunteering WA (VWA) wishes to acknowledge the Board for their commitment and support and thank members of the Research Committee for their assistance in establishing this program.*

### Objectives

- Facilitate connections between researchers, VWA and their members and stakeholders
- Enable VWA to gain evidence and find answers to pertinent research questions
- Facilitate Higher Degree Research students and Early Career Researchers to engage with VWA and Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs)
- Grow Western Australia's capacity for volunteering research

### Funding availability

- Up to a total of \$20,000, ex-GST will be distributed per round
- Funding may be allocated to one or more projects within the same round
- Funding may contribute in whole or in part to a project
- Western Australian based researchers, affiliated with an Australian university, with an academic or adjunct appointment or undertaking Higher Degree Research, are eligible to apply

### Submissions

Research proposals are sought on any of the following VWA research priorities or any other-matter that contributes to our understanding of volunteering and how to advance the sector in Western Australia.

Volunteering WA Research priorities:

- Corporate volunteering;
- Family volunteering;
- Social volunteering;
- Regenerative volunteering; and
- Applications for Artificial Intelligence in Volunteer Involving Organisations.

Additionally, the following gaps in the evidence base have been identified in a research project commissioned by the Volunteer Peak Bodies based on State and Territory State of Volunteering Report data, *A Snapshot of Volunteering in Australia, 2023* to be published March 2025:

- The unquantified and under-quantified benefits of volunteering, including but not limited to, the following:

- The transfer effects of inbound and outbound volunteer tourism.
- Employers' perspective on the productivity multiplier.
- The true replacement cost of volunteer labour.
- The well-being benefits enjoyed by consumers of volunteer services.
- Research on demographic groups that do not align with mainstream, able-bodied, and Anglo-centric perspectives on volunteering in order to appropriately contextualise State of Volunteering Report findings in the future.
- Research to quantify and contextualise the social costs associated with volunteering to enable more sustainable and equitable volunteering practices.
- Research to address the measurement complexity arising from overlap among volunteers, non-volunteers, and users of volunteer services.
- Research on the demand side of volunteering i.e. how many volunteers does our community need?

Submissions should address the essential criteria outlined in Attachment 1 and be sent to [dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au](mailto:dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au) by 5pm on Thursday 3 April 2025.

#### Timetable

<b>20 February 2025</b>	Volunteering WA opens Research Grant Program 2024-25
<b>COB 3 April 2025</b>	Submissions close
<b>April/May- 2025</b>	Submissions assessed, possibility of meeting with shortlisted proposal(s)
<b>June 2025</b>	Successful projects announced, subject to contracts
<b>From July 2025</b>	Projects commence
<b>By 18 December 2026</b>	Projects to be completed and final reports presented no later than this date. Earlier submission is encouraged.

## Assessment

Projects will be assessed on the criteria in Attachment 2. The assessment panel will recommend any shortlisted project(s) and may hold a follow up meeting prior to recommending the final project(s) for funding.

The assessment panel will include:

- One representative from VWA Research Committee
- One representative from Volunteering WA
- One volunteering sector representative.

The final decision will be made by the CEO of Volunteering WA, subject to contractual agreement. Volunteering WA reserves the right to not award any funding.

## Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Volunteering WA Research Grant Program.

Please contact Dominique Hansen, Manager Policy and Research at Volunteering WA at [dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au](mailto:dominique@volunteeringwa.org.au) if you have any queries.

## Attachment 1

### Volunteering WA Research Grant Program

#### – Essential criteria to be addressed in application

*Word and page ranges are provided as suggestions, however applications that include sections that have exceeded the upper bounds of the ranges will not be considered.*

*Please use at least 11-point font, single spacing, and minimum margins of 2.5cm. Graphical information is welcome but not a requirement.*

#### Title of project

#### Key research question to be addressed

#### Approach (300 words total)

- Proposed approach
- Timelines
- Risk management
- Pathway to future research or research collaborations

#### Research methodology (250 words total)

#### Investigators (1 page for each team member – if a student investigator will be involved but the student is not yet identified, there is no need to submit details for that investigator)

- Name
- Email
- Current title
- Institution
- Qualifications
- Key research outputs (up to three citations)
- Evidence of experience in the translation of research into practice (250 words maximum)
- Evidence of capacity to complete the project within the timeframe (~25 words)
- If supervising a student researcher, experience with supervision (~25 words)

#### Budget (0.5 page)

- Small table showing items and costs
- Include contributions from other parties
- Highlight any additional funding not yet secured

#### Summary of project and benefit to VWA (250 words)

- Why is this research of value to VWA and its members?
- Volunteering WA will make research available through its website. Please briefly outline any other plans for dissemination.

## Attachment 2

### Assessment criteria

#### 1. Investigators

Potential score 20

- a. Evidence of successful peer-reviewed research dissemination, and involvement of early career researchers.

No evidence from team and no early career researcher involvement	Evidence from team or early career researcher involvement	Evidence from team and early career researcher involvement
0	2	6

- b. Evidence of a track record of research translation

No evidence of investment in research translation activities	Some evidence of investment in research translation activities	Clear commitment to investment in research translation activities
0	2	4

- c. Evidence of capacity to deliver within funding period

No evidence of capacity to deliver	Some limitations / concern regarding capacity to deliver	Clear evidence of capacity
0	2	4

- d. Evidence of past successful collaborations with industry (e.g. VWA) or commitment to a future collaboration

No evidence past or potential future collaboration	No evidence of past collaboration but evidence of successful collaborations with other organisations	No evidence of past collaboration but evidence of successful collaborations with other orgs AND clear evidence of commitment to future collaboration	Clear evidence of past successful collaboration
0	2	3	4

- e. Does this project involve research students (e.g., Honours, Masters, internship, higher degree by research)?

No	Yes
0	2

## 2. Project Quality & Feasibility

Potential score 60

- a. How likely does it seem that the project is going to answer the proposed question? Consider the methodology and proposed approach to answering the research question.

Almost certainly will not	25:75 (probably will not)	50:50 (maybe, maybe not)	75:25 (probably will)	Almost certainly will
0	5	10	15	20

- b. How feasible is the project, given the timeframe and proposed budget?

Not feasible	Some aspects may fall short	Very feasible
0	10	20

- c. To what extent have project risks been identified, with appropriate mitigations put in place?

Inadequate assessment / high residual risk	Moderate residual risk	Low residual risk
0	5	10

- d. To what extent will this research project facilitate ongoing research?

This will almost certainly be a 'one-off'	This could lead to further research, including collaborations if parties are motivated	This will likely lead to ongoing research, including research collaborations
0	5	10

## 3. Budget

Potential score 20

- a. Assuming the project goes to plan, to what extent does it represent value for money to VWA?

Not at all	A little	To a moderate extent	To a large extent	A great deal
0	5	10	15	20

Overall

Potential score 100