



Patrons

His Excellency The Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM
Governor of Western Australia
and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson

Volunteering WA

Level 1, 3 Loftus Street
WEST LEEDERVILLE WA 6007



9482 4333



info@volunteeringwa.org.au



volunteeringwa.org.au



ABN: 24028 468 144

Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA

Minister for Volunteering

7th floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

By email: Minister.Beazley@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Minister Beazley

Re: WA Labor's commitment to streamline volunteer screening checks

Volunteering WA's long-standing [Reduce the Burden](#) campaign, to reduce the burden of volunteer screening in WA, was launched in 2021, and first noted in the [November 2021 VCRG communique](#).

The Reduce the Burden campaign, backed by our Members and the State's Peak Not-for-Profit Bodies, informed our top State Election Priority for 2025. We were therefore delighted to receive a letter from The Hon Roger Cook MLA Premier of Western Australia, dated 24 February 2025, **copy attached**, confirming the following commitment if re-elected:

I can confirm that a re-elected Cook Labor Government is committed to streamlining and creating greater efficiencies in volunteer checks and will continue to work with the sector to achieve this. I understand that relevant State government agencies are working together on optimising our new Digital ID system for this purpose.

In April 2025, non- State Government VCRG members provided written, out of session, endorsement of the following 10 recommendations to work collaboratively and successfully streamline volunteer screening checks:

1. Abolish fees for all volunteer screening checks;
2. Provide one entry point to an online portal for volunteers in WA to apply for all volunteer screening checks;
3. Leverage the Government's current Digital ID and Digital Wallet investments to create a digital WA volunteer passport;
4. Wholly digitise Working With Children and NDIS checks, as well as the future Aged Care Checks, removing the need for in-person attendance at either Australia Post or the Department of Transport;

5. Amend the WAPOL digitised process to allow for a Volunteer involving Organisation to nominate both a primary contact and a delegate who also has power to send and receive link for national Police Clearances;
6. Provide a free photo card for volunteers who lack a driver's licence or Australian passport or other recognised photo ID. This will provide greater access to streamlined online applications;
7. Provide funded in-person support for the digitally excluded (without internet, mobile phone or PC) to apply for digitised screening checks;
8. Where necessary, enable funded in-person support services to use the portal to print a hard copy Volunteer Passport as an alternative for the digitally excluded. The hard copy would confirm the clearances that are held by the Volunteer along with their date of issue and date of expiry. This will especially assist people in remote and regional Australia, older people and Aboriginal people;
9. Continue to educate Volunteering Involving Organisations and volunteers about what clearances are needed, to avoid over-servicing;
10. Work with Volunteering WA and the volunteering sector to enable user testing and finessing of the new streamlined checks.

On behalf of the VCRG, Volunteering WA is seeking commitment from the Minister and the Department to collaborate in supporting and implementing the recommendations.

To guide this process Volunteering WA will form a working group of experts from the sector to advise and support the Department of Communities and other agencies.

We believe these reforms will be transformative in reducing the barriers to volunteering and lead the way for a thriving volunteer sector in WA.

We look forward to working with you and your department to implement these pivotal and long-anticipated reforms.

Sincerely,



Tina Williams

Chief Executive Officer

Volunteering WA

5th May 2025



Our ref: 005

Ms Tina Williams
CEO
Volunteering WA
tina@volunteeringwa.org.au

Dear Ms Williams

Thank you for your correspondence outlining Volunteering WA's Election Priorities.

As you know, the Cook Labor Government supports a thriving volunteering community in Western Australia and is cognisant of the enormous financial and social value volunteers bring to our state. My Government is proud of its achievements since 2017, including:

- Provided \$1.4 million in recurrent funding to the volunteering sector annually, including Volunteering WA, the Volunteering Development Services (VDS) Program and the Volunteer Day Grants program.
- Launched the Volunteering Strategy in 2017 and in May 2023 the WA Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2023-2026.
- Awarded five-year contracts to 14 metropolitan and regional VDS providers for a total funding value of approximately \$4 million.
- Provided a further increase of \$2.1 million under the Royalties for Regions Program bringing the total VDS Program budget up to \$6.1 million over five years and expanding the VDS Program to the Pilbara and Wheatbelt regions.
- Delivered our \$176,000 election commitment to upgrade and streamline the VWA Volunteer Community Recovery Platform.
- Distributed 218 Thank a Volunteer Day Grants to organisations and local governments across WA to celebrate the contribution of volunteers across the community.
- Expanded the nomination eligibility of the WA Volunteer Service Awards to better reflect contemporary volunteering in WA. To date, 2,331 WA volunteers have been honoured through the Awards program.

I can confirm that a re-elected Cook Labor Government is committed to streamlining and creating greater efficiencies in volunteer checks and will continue to work with the sector to achieve this. I understand that relevant State government agencies are working together on optimising our new Digital ID system for this purpose.

In my travels around WA, I am regularly humbled by the efforts of local volunteers and the strong volunteering culture. If re-elected, I look forward to continuing our strong relationship in advancing volunteering in WA.

Yours sincerely

Hon Roger Cook MLA
Premier; Leader of WA Labor

24/02/2025

walabor.org.au fb.com/walabor [@walabor](https://twitter.com/walabor)

55-87 Havelock Street, West Perth 6005 | PO Box 8117, Perth BC WA 6849 | 9328 7222 | info@walabor.com.au | A&N: 99 279 642 391