

PROGRAM - 2025 VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCE

22 May 2025 | 9:00AM - 5:00PM | Denman Village Community Centre

8:00am - 9:00am	Registration
9:15am - 9:30am	Welcome <hr/> <p>Welcome to Country <i>Aunty Violet Sheridan, Ngunnawal Elder</i></p> <hr/> <p>Opening Remarks <i>Jean Giese, CEO, VolunteeringACT</i></p>
9:30am - 10:15am	Presentation ACT Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan <i>Heather Fitt, Senior Manager: Policy and Advocacy, VolunteeringACT</i> Heather will provide an update on the ACT Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan, and seek input on the key priorities for 2025 and 2026.
10:15am - 10:45am	Morning tea break
10:45am - 11:45am	Breakout Sessions <hr/> <p>Panel Inclusive Practices for Volunteers with Disability (Molonglo room) <i>Shane Vincent, VolunteeringACT Lindy Hou OAM Eliza Moloney, Women With Disabilities ACT James Collier, Meridian</i> This panel will explore volunteering as an opportunity for people with disability, and discuss how organisations can make their programs more inclusive and accessible.</p> <hr/> <p>Workshop Conflict Management: Dealing with difficult conversations and behaviours (Bugang room) <i>Cindy Young, Director Clinical Services and Program Development, and Luana Kirwan, Director Services, both from Conflict Resolution Services</i> Being prepared to deal with difficult conversations and behaviours is an important part of any volunteer program. This session will explore how to approach conflict management with volunteers safely and effectively.</p>
11:50am - 12:50pm	Breakout Sessions <hr/> <p>Lecture Volunteer Liability (Molonglo room) <i>Naresh Dathanarayana, Special Counsel, Synergy Law</i> In this session we will explore volunteer liability, including negligence, through the lens of case law.</p> <hr/> <p>Workshop Volunteer Engagement (Bugang room) <i>Brittany Campbell, Volunteer Services Manager, and Michael Rennick, Director of People & Culture, both from Vinnies</i> How do you meaningfully engage volunteers and ensure they participate actively? This session will cover different methods of volunteer engagement and communication.</p>

12:50pm - 1:30pm	Lunch break
1:35pm - 2:00pm	Keynote Volunteering and Belonging <i>Prue Slaughter, CEO, MIEACT</i> Prue brings strategic vision and dedication to community empowerment to create lasting change, encourage help-seeking behaviours, and break down barriers to mental health support. Prue is a well-respected senior leader and will reflect on what this year's National Volunteer Week theme of 'Connecting Communities' means to her and to MIEACT where she is CEO.
2:10pm - 3:00pm	Panel Community Engagement and Codesign <i>Mitch Porteous, Microforest Collective Manar Ahmad, VolunteeringACT Multicultural Advisory Group Hedviga David, RSL Lifecare</i> This panel will discuss the elements and benefits of co-design, consultation and engagement, with insights from organisations and individuals who are using these methods to enhance their programs.
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea break
3:30pm - 4:15pm	Lecture Child Safe Organisations: What makes young people feel safe? <i>Rosanne Nash, Senior Director, and Natalie Bowman, Senior Capability Development Officer, both from the ACT Children & Young People Commissioner's office</i> The ACT Children and Young People's Commissioner's team will share results of the 'Feelings of Safety' survey with insights into young people's reflections on safety, as well as seek input on key organisational needs.
4:15pm - 4:45pm	Panel Youth Volunteering Toolkit Launch <i>Ariah Holmes Travis Ngatuere Isha Singhal</i> <i>Youth Volunteering Working Group, VolunteeringACT</i> Launch of a new resource - the youth volunteering toolkits. This will include a panel discussion about how to effectively engage and include young volunteers.
4:45pm - 5:00pm	Closing Remarks <i>Jean Giese, CEO, VolunteeringACT</i>