

22 June 2017



Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
Via: ogp@pmc.gov.au

Re: Australia's Open Government Forum

To whom it may concern:

I write on behalf of Volunteering Australia to express interest in joining Australia's Open Government Forum to consult, engage, and provide informed feedback to build a better and fairer society for all Australians.

Volunteering is at the centre of Australia's national identity, with 5.8 million Australians or 31 per cent of the population engaging in volunteering, making an estimated annual economic and social contribution of \$290 billion.

As the national peak body, Volunteering Australia represents the views of the volunteer movement by ensuring support of innovative, meaningful and best-practice volunteer management, and encouraging public interest and participation in volunteering.

Volunteering Australia has the capacity to contribute to the Forum based on our knowledge and relationships with our state and territory peak partners, volunteers, Volunteer Involving Organisations, Volunteering Support Services, community sector stakeholders, the corporate sector and the wider community.

Volunteering Australia doesn't just represent one sector or organisation, with volunteering extending to a number of areas across society, including the arts, education, emergency services, sports, environment, health, aged care and disability, community welfare and other vital community programs. Volunteering is incredibly diverse, and Australian society is increasingly dependent on volunteering activities and programs.

Volunteering is critical in delivering on the Australian Government's priorities of building strong and resilient communities, by encouraging economic participation, mitigating isolation and loneliness, and increasing social inclusion, community participation and cohesion.

By joining Australia's Open Government Forum, Volunteering Australia can play an integral role in supporting the vision of the Forum economically, environmentally, culturally and socially, as well as the mission to promote an open and accountable government.

We would appreciate the opportunity to be a part of Australia's Open Government Forum. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adrienne Picone'.

Ms Adrienne Picone
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteering Australia

