

VOLUNTEERING *and* CONTACT ACT



April - Welcome from the CEO

I hope you had a refreshing Easter Break and could spend some time enjoying Canberra at its best. We have returned from our break ready for National Volunteer Week, 8-12 May. Plans are in train for each day of that week, starting with the [2017 Volunteering Awards, Canberra Region](#). Thank you for all your nominations. It is heartwarming to see the great things that the people of Canberra are doing for their compatriots. *If you would like to attend the Awards*, please [email us](#). We have a few spots left, and RSVPs will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Wednesday 10 May is our first [Community Impact Day](#) for the year. If you would like to get involved in a morning of volunteering please [email us](#).

The timetable of [events being held in Canberra for National Volunteering Week 2017](#) can be downloaded [here](#).

[Retain Designated Funding for Volunteering Support Services](#) - The Commonwealth Government's Department of Social Services has advised they intend to restructure their funding streams, which will remove designated funding for Volunteering Support Services, such as Volunteering and Contact ACT. This funding enables us to help build strong and resilient communities: we advocate for Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs) with government and business during development of social and workplace policies; we support VIOs through our online services, and we develop and deliver training programs such as the Specialist Knowledge Series.

As part of the national volunteering network, *VCA is advocating that removal of this funding will have an effect on the community's tower of strength*. It will have dramatic and negative effects on the community, volunteering, and the work of VIOs throughout the country. Led by [Volunteering Australia](#), we are seeking support from our members to assist us with advocating for this important funding.

In our common best interest, it would be appreciated if you could [read this and sign the petition here](#). If you would like a further conversation, please contact me on 6251 4060 or at ceo@vc-act.org.au

Department of Social Services recently held consultations on their new grants program, and have summarised the submissions and key themes alongside their responses. To [read the Department's responses click here](#).

The VCA team is currently reviewing our membership packages and we would appreciate our members' feedback. *We will be sending out a survey to all members in the next 2 weeks*, so keep your eye out for the email. In addition, to help encourage members to complete the survey, there will be a promotional offer for an upcoming VCA event.

Glenda Stevens

ACT Community Directory or Volunteering related question?



How can we help you? We'd love to improve our services, but can only do so when we know what you need. If you have any sort of question around volunteering or the ACT Community Directory, please let us know [here](#).

Member of the Month



Cooking Circles

This month we are proud to introduce Cooking Circles as our member of the month. Cooking Circles is a small project about *building networks between women through food, recipes and cooking*. Cooking Circles has a physical, on the ground element where stories and recipes are exchanged and women cook, meet and eat together. The process is photographed and videoed, and this connects it to its other element; social media. The Cooking Circles blog is a collection of pieces about women, culture and cooking in Timor Leste.

Visit their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) to learn more about this group. Alternatively, please contact [Heidi](#).

We are all set for our Awards Ceremony on 8 May



The VCA team have been very busy planning for this year's Awards. Thank you to everyone that took the time to nominate a team or an individual for the Awards. *We had a total of 85 nominations* in 2017. If you are interested in attending the Awards, [email us](#) to RSVP.

Thank you to [Beyond Bank](#), our major 2017 event sponsor. As well as [ActewAGL](#) and [Zoo Media](#).



If you're interested in partnering with VCA on one of our many events, please email us [here](#).

Australian Bureau of Statistics needs your help

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is currently calling for submissions to help inform current and emerging needs for volunteering and giving data. Based on the submissions received, and consultations with key federal agencies, the ABS will consider whether current methods and scope of collecting volunteering and giving data are sufficient. Volunteering and Contact ACT will be making a submission, and welcomes feedback from its members.

The full Discussion Paper can be found [here](#). If you would like to contribute to the VCA submission, please email Sarah at policy@vc-act.org.au.

Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Bill 2016

The new law applies to public and private organisations that are already subject to the Privacy Act. This includes not-for-profits with an annual turnover of more than \$3million. The new laws will come into effect within a year, and we recommend that organisations begin planning now to avoid non-compliance.

If you have any queries contact Jamie Quinn from [Aon Risk Solutions](#).

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Members' Events

St John Ambulance ACT are offering the following free first aid information sessions targeted at retirees, seniors, the elderly and their families.

- **25 May – Medical emergencies** – 7:00pm-8:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)
- **28 June – What if the worst happens** – 2:00pm-3:30pm (CPR, defibrillation & choking)
- **26 July – Medical emergencies** – 2:00pm-3:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)
- **26 August – What if the worst happens** – 2:00pm-3:30pm (CPR, defibrillation & choking)
- **16 September – Medical emergencies** – 2:00pm-3:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)
- **24 October – What if the worst happens** – 7:00pm-8:30pm (CPR, defibrillation & choking)

- [21 November – Medical emergencies](#) – 7:00pm-8:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)

All sessions are at 14 Thesiger Court Deakin. RSVP at 6282 2399 or admin@stjohnact.com.au (please note these sessions are up a flight of stairs).

YWCA Canberra

- [1 June – She Leads Conference](#) – Save the date, registrations open soon, [read more](#)

ACTCOSS

- [16 June – Financial Acumen \(Free workshop\)](#) – Read more about this event and register to attend [here](#).

If your organisation would like to share any events with our community please [email us](#).

Volunteering and Contact ACT Events

- [8-12 May - National Volunteer Week](#) - Our calendar of events for the week is as follows,

Monday 8 May: [2017 Volunteering Awards, Canberra Region](#)

Tuesday 9 May: [Volunteering Open Day](#)

Wednesday 10 May: [Community Impact Day](#)

Thursday 11 May: [Volunteer Managers Round Table](#)

Friday 12 May: [VCA Volunteer Thank You Luncheon](#)

Saturday 13 May: [Step up for Volunteering](#)

*** [Download a Pdf timetable here](#).

- [16 May - ACT Community Directory Essentials; Volunteering Essentials](#)
- [8 June - Volunteering Symposium](#)



SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE SERIES

Doing volunteering business better

Topic 4:
Managing Millennials

Thursday 25 May | 9am - 11:30am

[Register here](#)

Millennials are the first generation characterised as digital natives, and by 2030 will make up 75% of the workforce. In this workshop every preconception you hold about this generation will be challenged. Learn how harnessing the talent of millennials to create loyal volunteers and employees will propel your organisation to new heights.



MEET YOUR COMMUNITY

Is your organisation interested in talking with the community and letting them know about the services you provide?

If so, please [contact us](#) to book in for a session.

Next available date is
Friday May 26 | 10am - 2pm

Meet Your Community sessions are held on the 4th Friday of each month. Contact us to secure your spot.



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www.vc-act.org.au

Our mailing address is:

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