

# VOLUNTEERING *and* CONTACT ACT



## August - Message from our Interim CEO

Dear Colleagues,

Please see below a message on behalf of our Chair, Mat Franklin, with an exciting announcement about our new Chief Executive Officer.

*As Chair of the Board of Directors of Volunteering and Contact ACT, I am delighted to announce we have appointed Vicky Darling as Chief Executive Officer effective Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.*

*Vicky has committed her life to public policy and community leadership. She has been a Senior Executive in a large government department, Media and Government Relations Manager for a major charity, Chief of Staff to a Federal Minister, Senior Advisor to the Premier of Queensland, as well as serving in public office as the Member for Sandgate and in Cabinet as the Queensland Environment Minister. She has worked with all three levels of government, plus peak bodies and inside not-for-profits as a Board member, policy analyst and community engagement specialist.*

*We are delighted that Vicky has joined VCA to lead our organisation as CEO. We are confident that her tenure will be marked by further success as she champions participation through information, volunteering and community connections.*

We are only a few weeks away from the 2017 Volunteering Expo and if you are an organisation seeking volunteers, this event is not to be missed! Applications are closing soon. In 2015, we had over 1200 prospective volunteers through the doors, and this year is shaping up to be even bigger and better.

Abstracts will be open soon for the 2018 National Volunteering Conference (20-22 June 2018, International Convention Centre, Sydney), so if you know anyone who may be interested at speaking at this prestigious event, please get in touch. There are also a range of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities not to be missed.

Hope to see you at one of our events soon,

Jean Giese



Volunteering  
is the fastest  
way to...

pursue  
your  
passion



**Tuesday 19 September | 12h00-18h30 | Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden**

The 2017 Volunteering Expo is fast approaching! If your organisation has not yet registered, there is still time. Applications close on Tuesday 5 September.

To keep up with all the expo action check out our event page on [Facebook](#). Soon we will also be sending out some exciting marketing material, so watch this space!

## For Exhibitors..

Download the registration form [here](#).  
Members: \$110 | Non-members: \$220.  
All exhibitors must pay for the exhibit by 5 September in order to secure their spot.

## For Attendees..

If you are a member of the community and would like to attend, join our Facebook event [here](#) for updates. Admission for the public is free.

For all queries email us at [events@vc-act.org.au](mailto:events@vc-act.org.au) or call us on 02 6251 4060.

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## Policy & Research - Update

### #fixfundraising

Earlier this year the sector launched a campaign to fix fundraising. The campaign has been in full force in the lead up to today's meeting of Consumer Affairs Ministers in Melbourne. View and share the excellent video launched by Justice Connect: [It's time to fix fundraising](#).

### Australian Not-for-Profit Workforce Study

The Australian Not-for-Profit Workforce Study is the largest ever research study on and for not-for-profit employees and volunteers working at all levels. The study is designed to identify what matters most for making NFP work more developmental, healthy, meaningful, and productive. Anyone who completes the survey will receive a free personal analytics report and workforce analytics dashboard. To find out more or to take the study visit the Learning for Purpose [website](#).

### Volunteering Australia signs Civil Society Joint Statement

Volunteering Australia have signed on to a Civil Society [Joint Statement](#) calling on the government to [Strengthen the social safety net](#), [Stop tearing it apart](#). This has been coordinated by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

The joint statement is in relation to three proposed Social Services Amendment Bills: Welfare Reform, Payment Integrity, and Better Targeting Student Payments.

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## Volunteering in Schools Survey

Volunteering and Contact ACT are collaborating with P&C Council, Canberra Preschool Society, and APFACTS to undertake a survey on volunteering in ACT schools.

ACT schools have a strong history of parent support in a variety of forms. The purpose of the survey is to help us determine what motivates people to help out at school, and what barriers stop people from volunteering in schools.

The feedback received will help shape information and resources that will be tailor-made for the school environment.

Are you a parent volunteer? Take 5 minutes to [complete the survey](#) or share the link with others who might like to have their say.

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## 2017 Volunteer Manager Individual & Team Awards

Nominations will be opening soon for the 2017 Australian Association for Managers of

These awards are your opportunity to recognise the leaders of volunteers you know and work with whose energy, creativeness, and contribution deserves to be acknowledged. Both individual and teams of managers/leaders can be nominated.

Volunteers (AAMoV) Volunteer Manager Award of Excellence and Manager of Volunteers Team Award of Excellence.

Each year AAMoV celebrates those managers of volunteers who use their passion and commitment to make a positive difference to the profession of volunteer management and to enhancing the impact that volunteering can have.

Please visit the [AAMoV website](#) over the next 2 weeks for nomination forms and further details. We'll also send out an email to let you know when the details are available.

Nominations will close on 15 September with the winners announced on 5 November.

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## Commonwealth Stronger Communities Grants Programme

The Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) provides grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 to community organisations and local governments for capital projects.

The input of the community is a key element of the SCP. Projects are selected by Members of Parliament (MPs) and their community consultation committees, and are then submitted to the Government for assessment.

Applications opened on 7 August 2017. Applicants need to be invited to apply by their local Federal Member of Parliament.

Guidance materials including the Programme Guidelines are available [here](#).

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## #NVC2018 - Save the date!



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The 17th National Volunteering Conference (**20-22 June 2018, International Convention Centre, Sydney**) is Australia's key volunteering leadership event uniting the sector to ignite, invigorate and inspire volunteering.

NVC18 will provide a forum for not for profit leaders, managers of volunteers, researchers and policy contributors to advance and strengthen the volunteering sector through knowledge sharing and discussion.

Keep an eye out on the [website](#) for updates.

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## VCA September Events

### 5 September - [Volunteering Essentials](#)

- Learn more about what is involved in volunteering and gain insight into your rights and responsibilities as a volunteer.

### 12 September - [Volunteering Open Day](#)

- Held on the second Tuesday of every month, our Volunteering Open Day provides a great opportunity for anyone to find out more about volunteering!

### 14 September - [ACT Community Directory Essentials](#)

- A free 90-minute workshop focusing on how to find everything you need in the ACT Community Directory and Diary.

### 19 September - [Volunteering Expo](#)

- VCA's biennial event bringing together volunteer involving organisations and prospective volunteers to showcase the breadth of opportunities available in the Canberra Region.

### 21 September - [Specialist Knowledge Series](#)

- [The Importance of Leadership Buy-In](#)

Lack of understanding is one of the key hurdles that must be overcome in order to articulate impact and get greater leadership buy-in. This seminar will demonstrate how to traverse the complex landscape of leadership politics by articulating your message in a way that makes sense to your audience.

### 22 September - [Meet Your Community](#)

- Our monthly Meet Your Community events are an opportunity to use our Shopfront space to promote your service. If you are interested in being our September guest please email [info@vc-act.org.au](mailto:info@vc-act.org.au).

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## Community Directory & Diary - Update

It's been another busy month for the [ACT Community Directory](#) and [Diary](#) with 3 new organisations and 14 new services listed.

#### [Links to Learning](#)

A volunteer tutoring program available free to all adults living in the Canberra Region who would like to develop their literacy or numeracy skills, provided by Community Services #1.

#### [ACT Together](#)

A consortium led by Barnardos to provide out of home services for children and young people in care, and carers.

#### [Conversations at 4Cs](#)

A free counselling service to help adults cope with life's challenges, improve well being and develop goals for personal change.

Below are some of the upcoming events listed in the ACT Community Diary for September:

#### [Warehouse Circus presents Choices & Change](#)

[Thinking and Feeling Good](#) with Arthritis & Osteoporosis ACT

#### [Free PD for Primary teachers delivering sexuality and relationships education](#)

#### [Lifeline Canberra Bookfair](#)

[Recruitment and Engagement – 'How to get the right people...that stay'](#) with ACTCOSS

If your organisation would like to learn more about how to better use the Community Directory and Diary please contact [Chris Mettam](#).

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## Free Tax Help 2017

VCA is offering free tax help to those who earned \$60,000 or less in the 2016-17 year. Appointments take place on Wednesday afternoons and will continue until the end of October. If you or anyone you know would like to make an appointment please phone 02 6248 7988.

Please note that Eligibility Criteria applies.

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## Meet Your Community - Guest Spot Open!

Our Meet Your Community August session was well received and of benefit to both individuals and agencies who came into to talk to our guest organisation, Feros Care.

If your organisation is interested in being involved we are seeking a guest for next month's slot on Friday 22 September. Please email [info@vc-act.org.au](mailto:info@vc-act.org.au) for more information.



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