

## **THE LATEST PICTURE OF VOLUNTEERING IN AUSTRALIA**

Facts about volunteering in Australia: ABS *Voluntary Work, Australia Survey* (2006). These figures were released in July 2007.

### **Who volunteers?**

- 34% of the adult population (5.4 million people), volunteer.
- Slightly more women (36%) than men (32%) volunteer.
- 44% of those aged 35-44 yrs volunteer, the highest participation level of any age group.

### **Where do they live?**

- Queensland and the ACT have the highest volunteer participation rate of 38%.
- Volunteering is more common amongst those living in parts of the state outside the capital city, with a 38% participation rate for outside the capital cities compared to 32% in the cities.

### **What do volunteers do?**

The four most common types of organisation for which people volunteered were:

- 1.Sport and physical recreation
- 2 Education and training
- 3.Community/welfare
- 4.Religious groups.

The four most common volunteering activities are:

- 1.Fundraising: 48%
- 2.Preparing and serving food: 31%
- 3.Teaching/providing information: 28% and
- 4.Administration: 26%

Many volunteers are also involved in caring for others with special needs, beyond the level of care usually called on in family life.

- 27% of volunteers were carers compared with 17% of those who were not volunteers and
- 63% provided informal help to other people in the community (a relative in another household, friend, neighbour, work colleague or other person) compared with 42% of non volunteers.

### **Why do they do it?**

- Almost two thirds of those who became involved in volunteering in the last 10yrs were asked by someone (35%) or did so because they knew someone involved (29%).
- They were rarely recruited by the media with only 5% doing so as a response to a media report of an advertisement.
- Over half of volunteers (52%) reported that at least one of their parents had done voluntary work compared to 23% for those whose parents had not volunteered.
- The top reason for volunteering was 'Helping others or the community' 57%, followed by 'personal satisfaction' at 44%, and 'to do something worthwhile' at 36%.