



**Gareth Ward**

Minister for Families and Communities  
Minister for Disability Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 1 August 2019

### **SHAPING THE FUTURE OF VOLUNTEERING**

Individuals and organisations can help shape the future of volunteering in New South Wales by having their say in developing the third NSW Volunteering Strategy.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Gareth Ward today urged anyone interested in volunteering to take part in a public consultation survey aimed towards boosting volunteerism in our State.

“The NSW Government is committed to supporting our State’s valuable volunteers and the organisations to which they freely dedicate their time,” Mr Ward said.

“In developing this important Volunteer Strategy, we want to hear what’s working well and what can be improved, to ensure we maintain a vibrant volunteering sector.”

The NSW Volunteering Strategy will support the 2.1 million volunteers across the state and will be guided by the views and ideas expressed through the online consultation.

It will build on the work of the previous strategy and provide the blueprint for work in the sector over the next decade.

“Volunteers in NSW contribute a combined 240 million hours of their time each year. This contribution needs to be recognised and supported in the best way possible.” Mr Ward said.

“Responses to the surveys will directly help us to develop the next strategy, and influence how we invest in and support volunteers.”

“The new strategy will help reduce barriers to volunteering, improve volunteer recognition and make volunteering attractive to a greater number of people.”

The survey will be open to members of the public and another available to organisations today. The online surveys will close at 5pm on Friday 6 September 2019.

To complete the surveys or to find out more information about the current NSW Volunteering Strategy, visit [www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au](http://www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au)

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