**Directorate: Community Services**

**17-587 Ministerial Statement and ACT Volunteering Statement Action Plan 2018-2021**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| The *ACT Volunteering Statement Action Plan* provides actions that foster the engagement, management and support of volunteers in the ACT. The major impacts of the proposal are Social, in the form of enhanced individual wellbeing and community connectedness, improved organisational capability, and increased social capital. There is also an Economic impact, noting that volunteering is estimated to contribute $1.5 billion per annum to the ACT economy. |

*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.*

**Social**

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| **Community and individual health** | * Volunteering supports the delivery of vital community services in Canberra.
* Volunteers in the ACT contribute to a wide range of community services that support social inclusion and community connectedness including sport and physical recreation organisations, welfare/community organisations, religious organisations, and those in the health and education sectors.
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| **Social inclusion** | * Volunteering has personal benefits for volunteers by providing access to social networks and community activities.
* The Action Plan has a specific focus on ensuring that people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are able to engage in volunteering and are supported to do so.
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**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget** | * Initiatives to promote volunteering and support volunteers will be delivered within existing resources.
* The ACT Government supports volunteers and volunteer management through a variety of grants programs, and by subsidising the registration of volunteers for the Working with Vulnerable People Scheme.
* ACT Government employees are entitled to three days of paid leave for community service leave within a twelve month period, to engage in a recognised voluntary community service activity.
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| **Productivity** | * Volunteers support the delivery of vital government funded initiatives, services and programs such as the ACT Rural Fire Service.
* The Action Plan aims to support volunteer involvement and volunteer run organisations to use volunteers more effectively by better supporting them and matching their skills and interests to volunteering opportunities.
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| **Investment** | * Volunteering is estimated to contribute $1.5 billion annually to the ACT economy.
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**Environmental**

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| **Environmental quality** | * Environment groups benefit significantly from thousands of hours of volunteer contributions annually, which enhances the quality of the local environment through projects such as environmental restoration, heritage preservation, catchment management and citizen science for monitoring biodiversity.
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