

CAN I VOLUNTEER WHILE IN AUSTRALIA?

VOLUNTEERING AND VISAS



ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORITY (ETA)

You may be able to volunteer while on an ETA if the main purpose for visiting Australia is tourism and the volunteering is incidental, genuinely voluntary and you get no pay.

On an ETA you may still receive meals, accommodation and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in return for voluntary work.



VISITING AND TOURIST VISAS

You may be able to volunteer while on a tourist visa if the main purpose for visiting Australia is tourism, the work involved would not otherwise be done by an Australian resident for pay, and the work is genuinely voluntary.

On a tourist visa you can still receive meals, accommodation and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in return for voluntary work.



STUDENT OR TRAINING VISAS

You may volunteer while on a student visa as the restriction of a maximum of 20 hours paid work for students does not include volunteer work.

Study must be the main purpose of your time in Australia and any voluntary work is incidental to this. The role must be a genuine volunteer role that has benefit to the community, with no remuneration received in return.



WORK-RELATED VISAS

You may volunteer in Australia while on a work-related visa. However, with a working holiday visa, volunteer work will only be counted as specified work for the purpose of applying for a second or third Working Holiday visa, where it is related to recovery work undertaken in bushfire declared areas, or to other declared areas that have been affected by natural disasters.



REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN VISAS

If you are awaiting a decision on your application, and you have a bridging visa with permission to work in Australia, you may also volunteer. Even if you do not have permission to work, you may be able to volunteer, however it is recommended that you check with the Department of Home Affairs to clarify this before commencing volunteering.



POLICE AND SCREENING CHECKS

Some volunteer positions require a police check. If you are volunteering with: children, older people, people with disabilities, or vulnerable people, you may also be required to also obtain related screening checks, or sign a Statutory Declaration. Please consult with the organisation you plan to volunteer with for their specific requirements.

***THIS RESOURCE IS FOR GENERAL GUIDANCE ONLY* Check your specific visa conditions or contact the Department of Home Affairs before commencing volunteering.**

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