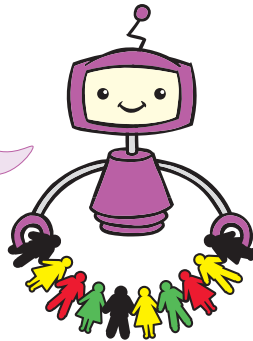


We need you

Have you ever volunteered to help someone out? Volunteering is an important part of many cultures. Let's find out more about signing up to help out!



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 9

Learning Object 2: *Volunteer buddies*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 13 Work Sheet 5: *Helping around the house*

1 Lending a hand

Volunteering usually means offering to work for nothing. People volunteer to do work that would not otherwise get done, particularly work that supports those who are disadvantaged in some way, such as the sick or elderly.

According to Volunteering Australia, more than five million Australians do volunteer work for non-profit community organisations each year.

A survey in 2000 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed the biggest growth in volunteers was among young people. There was an increase in participation among 18- to 24-year-olds from 16.6 per cent to 26.8 per cent between 1995 and 2000.

Australians, particularly young Australians, also get involved in volunteering with international organisations, either by helping to raise awareness and funding, or by travelling overseas to provide skilled or unskilled labour.

Here are just some of the organisations Australians volunteer to work with in Australia:

Riding for the Disabled (RDA) provides horse riding and associated therapeutic and recreational activities for people with disabilities and special needs.

Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) provides emergency medical services and remote-area clinics, and flies medical specialists and general practitioners to

rural and remote areas. It trains doctors and nurses, in partnership with universities.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) seeks to prevent cruelty to animals by promoting their care and protection. It provides veterinary care, including animal shelters, and advocates for animal rights.

Wildlife Animal Rescue and Care Society (Wildlife ARC) aims to rescue orphaned or injured Australian native animals. The animals are rehabilitated, then returned to the wild. The society provides care for species as diverse as birds, possums, reptiles, macropods, flying-foxes, microbats, dasyurids and wombats.

Boystown provides a range of services for disadvantaged or 'at risk' young people, including Kids Helpline, Parentline, family refuges and personal support, education, training and employment programs.

There are many more organisations you might volunteer to work with in Australia. Perhaps you have noticed a few key themes in the kinds of support they provide to the community.

Volunteers in Australia commonly work with disadvantaged people, with animals or for environmental causes. They are an essential element in the delivery of services.

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Many community services organisations (such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, or Blue Care Australia) are affiliated with or run by Churches. Others were

created in response to specific issues or needs, such as disability support or endangered wildlife.

2 Volunteering in Indonesia

While there are an increasing number of *LSM (Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat)* non-government organisations (NGOs) in Indonesia that welcome volunteers, the concept of volunteering is best captured in the system of *gotong royong*, or mutual assistance, which refers to the obligations each person has to their community. Each member of the community is expected to contribute to helping other members, and each one can also expect to be helped out by the same community at some time. This system, which has existed for thousands of years, ensures that things are done for the good of everyone. It originated in Indonesia's agricultural society, when farmers would call on other farmers to help with planting or harvesting, and assist them in return. Although many farmers now use hired labour, *gotong royong* can be seen in action when, for example, a village needs a new mosque, and everyone contributes their time and energy to help build one.

In modern Indonesia, *gotong royong* is best illustrated by the term *kerjabakti*, meaning 'work in voluntary service', or community work. During the 1945 fight for independence, *kerjabakti* was used to mobilise village people to help the freedom fighters. The term is also used to refer to work done by the Army in the New Order era to help villages build public wells, toilets or meeting halls. In situations like this, everyone participates and the spirit of community is obvious. In urban Indonesia, people participate in *kerjabakti* to clean their neighbourhoods, schools or even sewers. Typically, this is done close to the celebration of Indonesia's Independence Day in August.

Some Indonesian NGOs are established with the help of, or under the umbrella of, overseas aid organisations. While they may include the help of expatriate volunteers from abroad, they rely primarily on local Indonesian volunteers.

There is also an increasing number of locally-founded organisations which rely solely on Indonesian resources. These may or may not establish relationships with similar organisations abroad. Such organisations may be involved with street kids in big cities like Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta and Surabaya, providing safe houses where children can stay and where they can attend classes. Volunteers help to run safe houses by cleaning or providing food for the children, as well as educational activities. There are even locally-managed organisations which help endangered animals such as the *orang-utan*.

International aid agencies, like the Red Cross (*Palang Merah*) also use volunteer teams to help deliver services throughout Indonesia, particularly in disaster-prone parts of the country. The Indonesian Red Cross (*Palang Merah Indonesia*), which was originally founded independently by President Soekarno in 1945, has since become a recognised member of the International Red Cross and relies primarily on local Indonesian volunteers.

Palang Merah Indonesia has supported the development and training of *Satgana*, an acronym of *Satuan Penanggulangan Bencana* (Emergency Response Units). These are community-based teams of volunteers who are mobilised during natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis. *Satgana* assisted in recovery work after the devastating tsunami of 2004, and the recent earthquakes in Sumatra and Java. Local volunteers are an important component of teams that deliver community services, including blood donation and ambulance services, in rural and urban areas of the country.

1.2 What types of volunteering opportunities are available in your area? How do you know about these opportunities?

If you aren't aware of any opportunities, how could you find out about what is available?

1.3 What values, attitudes or beliefs influence the types of work people volunteer to do in Australia? Give reasons to support your answer.

Exercise 2

Now, let's think about volunteering in Indonesia.

2.1 What opportunities are there for young people to do volunteer work in Indonesia?

If you are not aware of many opportunities, how could you find more information?

2.2 What types of organisations use volunteer support in Indonesia?

Hint! In Australia, people generally volunteer to work with not-for-profit charity organisations, many of which are run by Churches or other religious organisations. Is this similar to, or different from, the situation in Indonesia?

2.3 What values, attitudes or beliefs influence the types of volunteer work done by people in Indonesia? Give reasons to support your answer.

Exercise 3

3.1 What similarities and differences are there between the types of volunteer work done by people in Australia and people in Indonesia?

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3.2 How does your answer to Exercise 3.1 reflect differences or similarities between Indonesian and Australian values, attitudes and beliefs?

Exercise 4

In this exercise, you are going to use your critical skills to explore some of the concepts and language in this work sheet. In answering critical-thinking questions, the answers are less important than your ability to explain your reasoning.

Answer these questions in English, based on your knowledge and understanding of Australian and Indonesian culture.

Hint! Not everyone who works in a not-for-profit organisation does unpaid work. How do you think decisions are made about what roles will be paid, and what roles will be unpaid? Are there certain types of work you would be happy to do without pay? What work would you only do if you were paid? Why?

4.1 Volunteer work is unpaid labour. Why do you think some types of work are unpaid, or working for some types of organisations is unpaid?

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4.2 'Volunteering' is also used to refer to signing up for military service, especially during times of war.

Why do you think signing up to serve in the Army, Navy or Air Force is sometimes described as 'volunteering'?

Hint! Some countries have compulsory military service, while other countries, such as Australia, have occasionally used conscription to recruit personnel during times of war.

In Australia, you can sign up to join the full-time defence forces, or the Army Reserve. Army Reservists are part-time employees of the defence forces who work a minimum of 20 days a year.