



Your Volunteering

Prepared by Stephanie Kendall, powered by Engagement Hub

Reporting Period: 17 May to 17 June 2021



COTA NT's Volunteers Thank You Lunch



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Introduction

COTA NT's advocacy for senior Territorians aims to effect positive social change. COTA NT has over 50 years of history in advocating for senior Territorians and ensuring their voice has a say in the development of public policy and legislation.

Our research, surveys and reports, are published on our website at, <https://www.cotant.org.au/about-us/cota-advocacy/surveys/>

NT Seniors Voice (ntseniorsvoice.org.au) is an online engagement hub platform whereby stakeholders can register and have their say in open conversations and consultations. NT Seniors Voice is also a bi-monthly newsheet.

Data Source

- The information in this report is based on responses to COTA NT's "Your Volunteering" survey published on NT Seniors Voice (ntseniorsvoice.org.au).
- The survey was open between 17 May and 17 June 2021.
- The primary purpose of this survey was to attain responses from seniors who volunteered according to the ABS's current definition of volunteering, *"The provision of unpaid help willingly undertaken in the form of time, service or skills, to an organisation or group, excluding work done overseas."*¹
- The Survey was promoted through email, social media and the NT Seniors Voice print and electronic newsletter.
- It was held to mark National Volunteers Week (17-23 May) and to have the volunteering contribution of seniors to the NT recognised and celebrated.
- These results should not be used as a comparison to other surveys and research.
- This information should not be considered definitive or scientific research.

¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/research/people/people-and-communities/general-social-survey-summary-results-australia/collection-volunteering-data-abs>



Project Overview

COTA NT marked National Volunteers Week 2021 (17-23 May 2021) by delivering a survey to start the process of recording the volunteer contribution made by senior volunteers.

- As we know, every hour volunteered can be given a dollar amount. According to Volunteering NT/SA, each volunteer hour can be valued at \$52.

What We Asked Stakeholders to Do

We asked NT stakeholders aged over 50 years to complete a survey about their volunteering hours, so we could record their ongoing contributions to the NT.

We have published the results to our [website \(https://www.cotant.org.au/about-us/cota-advocacy/our-research/\)](https://www.cotant.org.au/about-us/cota-advocacy/our-research/) and shared with NT stakeholders including Northern Territory Government MLA and Volunteering NT, the peak body for volunteering in the NT.

Project Activity

Total Page Views	Total Survey Taken
909 visitors viewed the project	26 people completed the survey

About Our Survey Participants

- This survey had **26 respondents aged between 45 and 79 years old.**
- 65% of respondents were aged between 65 and 79.
- Over 80% of respondents have lived in the Territory for more than 15 years.
- Over 53% are fully retired.
- 6 worked in the non-for-profit sector, 3 were self-employed, 3 in the private sector and 1 in Government. 13 responded as other.





Questions

What type of informal volunteering do you typically undertake?

- Volunteering for a neighbourhood group, **9**
- Volunteering for a specific hobby group, **7**
- Help at sporting or school events, **3**
- Helping a friend or neighbour with transport, **3**
- Providing unpaid tuition or coaching outside of your family, **1**
- Providing help outside your family with shopping, **1**
- Providing services or support through a mutual support group, **1**
- Running a canteen for sports or rec group, **1**

How many hours do you volunteer (on average) a week as either a formal or informal volunteer?

- 0-5 hours, **14**
- 5-10 hours, **4**
- 10-15 hours, **4**
- 15-20 hours, **2**
- 20-25 hours, **1**

This means each volunteer participating in our survey contributes a minimum average of 4.7 hours a week and up to 9 hours maximum on average per week.

This has a minimum monetary value of \$244.40 per week, \$12 708 per year per volunteer; and a maximum of \$468 per week, \$24 336 per year per volunteer.

The 26 volunteers surveyed by COTA NT contribute in total:

- a minimum monetary value of \$6 354.40 per week
- a maximum monetary value of \$12 168 per week
- an annual minimum monetary value of **\$330 408 per year**
- **up to a maximum monetary value of \$632 736 per year.**



How regularly do you volunteer?

- Weekly, **17**
- Daily, **6**
- Fortnightly, **3**
- Monthly, **3**

Who did you assist through your volunteering work?

- Not for Profit organisations, **23**
- Community, **21**
- Friends, **4**
- Public service, **2**
- Family (outside your household), **2**
- Family (within your household), **1**
- Neighbour, **1**

How satisfying do you find your volunteering?

- 5 Star (Very satisfying), **16**
- 4 Star, **8**
- 3 Star, **1**
- 2 Star, **0**
- 1 Star (Not satisfying), **0**

Do you think organisations that have volunteer programs need more support?

- Yes more support needed, **19**
- Not sure/ don't know, **2**
- Not specifically answered, **2**





- No, more support is not needed, **1**
- Not able to comment, **1**

Comments received were:

- Monetary support and assistance from Gov Organisations helps.
- Yes I think Governments expect too much from non profits
- Area of Recruitment & volunteer support
- Yes. Once it was considered an asset for employees to assist organisations and was encouraged even during work hours. No longer the case
- Yes they do. Organisations should join Volunteering NT for support.
- Absolutely. Many feel a void from what governments otherwise would be forced to do eg for Food Bank. Cancer support for men would also need to be increased by CCNT or by NT Health in some additional form.
- Yes, but they need to be more organized to get the most benefit from their volunteers.
- Yes, recruitment and support for the volunteers.
- Yes. It would be helpful to have access on 'as needs' basis to casual reliable volunteers to assist with Set-up and Pack-up for dance events. This would enable ongoing volunteers to take occasional breaks for family commitments.
- Yes. Recruitment of reliable casual volunteers to provide relief to allow ongoing volunteers to take occasional holiday.
- As I mainly support the Coeliac Society more funding for research of the disease and support with the expensive gluten free diet would always be welcome.
- always for support in all areas
- I think they need more volunteers as workload being carried by too few. More incentive to volunteer?
- Absolutely in how to retain
- Yes, they need all our support so that they can retain their volunteers.
- I think that Volunteering NT provides a lot of support already
- yes, it's very costly to provide necessary support especially when no sponsors found

Are all your out-of-pocket expenses for your volunteering met?

- No, **15**
- Sometimes, **5**
- Yes, **2**
- Never, **4**



Does your volunteer work require skilled work?

- Yes, **19**
- No, **7**

How do you volunteer?

- In the field or in person, **23**
- At home over the internet, **10**
- At home over the phone, **8**
- Other, **4**

Have you undertaken volunteer work whilst waiting for employment?

- No, **22**
- Yes, **4**

Has volunteering helped you to secure employment?

- No, **21**
- Yes, **4**
- Not sure, **1**

Did you learn new skills as a volunteer that were relevant to the field you wished to work in?

- No, **20**
- Yes, **4**
- Unsure, **2**



Summary of Key Findings

- Each volunteer who participated in our survey contributes a minimum average of 4.7 hours a week and up to 9 hours maximum on average per week.
- This has a minimum monetary value of \$244.40 per week, \$12 708 per year per volunteer; and a maximum of \$468 per week, \$24 336 per year per volunteer.
- 73% of volunteers surveyed believe that organisations with volunteer programs need more support.

Value of Seniors Volunteering

26 volunteers surveyed by COTA NT contribute in total:

- a minimum monetary value of \$6 354.40 per week
- a maximum monetary value of \$12 168 per week
- an annual minimum monetary value of **\$330 408 per year**
- **up to a maximum monetary value of \$632 736 per year.**

Other Findings of Note

- 34% of respondents volunteer for a neighbourhood group.
- 65% of respondents volunteer weekly and 53% of respondents volunteer up to 5 hours every week.
- Over 88% of volunteering hours is for the benefit of not-for-profit organisations.
- 73% of volunteers do **not** have their out-of-pocket expenses met.
- Over 88% of respondents volunteer face-to-face.