A focus on volunteering in sport

October 2021

sportaus.gov.au
Sport is an important part of Australian culture. Around 12 million adults aged 15+ in Australia participate in some kind of sport-related activity every year. Much of this is ‘organised’ sport where we participate through a club, association or venue and some is more independent where, for example, we go for a bike ride with our family or for a run on our own.

But involvement in and enjoyment of sport is not limited to playing or participating. Many of us take on those essential jobs – non-playing roles such as coaches, officials, administrators or team managers – that allow organised sport to happen all over the country.

Being involved in sport in any way has many benefits and these relate to more than fitness and physical health – we know that many participants in sport are motivated by social aspects such as being part of a team, meeting up with friends, having fun or managing their mental health. And these benefits are not limited to players – they can also be experienced by those who are involved in sport in other ways.

In AusPlay, we count the number of adults aged 15+ who take on non-playing roles in sport. Although younger Australians aren’t included in this count, we shouldn’t forget that junior sport is also supported by those under the age of 15 – any sports field on a weekend is likely to have under-15s officiating and helping out with the youngest players and teams.

This report presents high-level information on non-playing roles across all sport and physical activities. It then focuses on those in organised sport since this is where the vast majority occur. It examines whether these roles are all taken on by volunteers, who gets involved the most, what roles they take on and in which sports. The report also draws on other research projects conducted by Sport Australia that have identified different volunteer types and what drives them to become involved.
Volunteering in sport – key findings

Each year in Australia, **8.5 million adults aged 15+** and **3.4 million children aged 0-14** participate in organised sport. That equates to **40% of adults** and **69% of children**.

The nature of organised sport is such that it doesn’t happen on its own. Without a substantial amount of effort, it wouldn’t happen at all. Tasks such as maintaining and setting up venues, developing fixtures, coaching or managing teams, sitting on club committees or cooking sausages on the BBQ all combine to enable sport to run.

In AusPlay we call these tasks ‘non-playing roles’, and they are almost always undertaken by volunteers. Overall, **3.1 million Australians aged 15+** take on non-playing roles in sport and **2.9 million of these consider themselves to be volunteers** (even if they receive some form of compensation).

The most common non-playing roles in sport are coach and official, followed by administrators and team managers.

Coaches and officials are more likely to be men, while team managers are more often women.

Our youngest coaches and officials (aged 15–17) are more likely to be paid than older volunteers.
Most people who volunteer in a sport already have a strong connection to that sport – they are often players themselves or have children playing – and are motivated to volunteer simply to facilitate their own or their children’s activity.

Volunteers in sport are slightly more likely to be male than female – reflecting the profile of participants – and in the 35-54 year old age group – reflecting the prevalence of parents in the volunteer workforce.

69% of volunteers have children in their household.

56% of volunteers are men.

55% of volunteers are involved as both a player and a volunteer in at least one sport.

48% of volunteers are aged 35-54.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are less likely to both participate in organised sport and volunteer in sport than those from English-speaking backgrounds. Other groups that are under-represented in organised sport are people with disability and those on the lowest household incomes.

14% of Australians overall volunteer in sport, but only...

8% of those from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and...

8% of the lowest income households are sport volunteers.

The sports with the most volunteers are, unsurprisingly, those that are most popular to play. Football/soccer takes out the top spot, with 467,000 volunteers, followed by Australian football (374,000) and Netball (305,000).
About this report

AusPlay

AusPlay is a national participation survey that commenced in 2015 and includes 20,000 telephone interviews among adults aged 15+ every year. Apart from providing information about their own participation, parents/guardians of children under the age of 15 are asked about the physical activities undertaken by one (randomly selected) child outside of school hours.

AusPlay asks about more than playing sport

As well as measuring how many adults are players or participants in sport and physical activity, AusPlay also asks respondents about any non-playing roles they take on, giving us an all-round view of involvement. They are asked:

- If they take on any non-playing roles in up to three activities
- What roles they take on
- Whether they receive any compensation (payment or other benefits) for doing the role
- Whether they consider themselves a volunteer, even if they receive some form of compensation.

In order to provide the most reliable estimates possible, the data presented in this report is generated using an aggregated dataset covering multiple years of survey results. Unless otherwise stated, the time period used is July 2019 to June 2021, since this is when the questions on non-playing roles were expanded to include compensation.

Sport Volunteering National Plan

Sport Australia is committed to helping sports grow their volunteer base and in August 2021 launched the Sport Volunteering National Plan. The plan provides insight into different types of volunteers who get involved for a wide range of reasons, drawing on recent stakeholder engagement1 as well as earlier market segmentation work.2 It presents a roadmap for how sports can attract and retain these different types of volunteers in the coming years and allow more Australians to enjoy the benefits of involvement in sport.

Did you know?

3.1 million Australians aged 15+ take on the non-playing roles that support organised sport and the 8.5 million adults and 3.4 million children who play it.

2. Market Segmentation - Volunteers | Clearinghouse for Sport
This report mentions both non-playing roles and volunteering. While these may seem like the same thing, there is a distinction between the two, outlined below. In reality we find that the vast majority of non-playing roles are undertaken by those who consider themselves to be volunteers.

### Australians
To be eligible for inclusion in AusPlay, a respondent needs to have been resident in Australia for the previous 12 months. This may include temporary and permanent residents as well as Australian citizens.

### Compensation
Something received in return for carrying out a non-playing role, including straightforward payment or other goods and services but excluding reimbursement of expenses for travel, meals or phone calls. Questions about compensation were added to AusPlay in July 2019.

### Non-playing roles
Roles such as coaches, officials, administrators or team managers, as well as carrying out more general tasks such as ground set up. The AusPlay survey includes questions about up to three non-playing roles undertaken by adults aged 15+ in up to three activities in the previous 12 months.

### Non-sport-related activity
Physical activity that is typically not associated with a sporting organisation, for example, gym/fitness, bushwalking, recreational dance.

### Organised sport
Sport-related activity that is done through an organisation (like a club or a gym) or at a venue (like an oval or pool).

### Participation
Unless otherwise stated, participation means taking part in a sport or physical activity at least once in the previous 12 months.

### Participation estimate
The estimated number of the target population (either adults or children) who would have provided a particular response had all Australian residents been asked.

### Participation rate
The proportion of Australians who self-report that they participated or were involved in a sport or physical activity at least once in the previous 12 months.

### Sport-related activity
Physical activity that is typically associated with a sporting organisation, for example, athletics, cycling, football/soccer, netball.

### Volunteers
Those who consider themselves a volunteer, even if they receive some form of compensation. This allows us to distinguish between those who carry out a non-playing role for a living or primarily for the benefits, and those who give up some of their leisure time to help run sport and may or may not receive something in return.
Non-playing roles
Non-playing roles in all sport and non-sport-related physical activities

The proportion of Australians taking on non-playing roles had been relatively stable until the 2020/21 financial year, peaking at 17% in 2018/19. This peak was largely driven by increases in Queensland and Victoria.

In the last financial year, we may be starting to see the effect of COVID-19 limiting the amount of organised sport and the reluctance of some volunteers to return, which was outlined in our June 2021 COVID-19 update. The decrease in non-playing roles is most pronounced among men.

3. Based on aggregated data from October 2015 to June 2021
Are all non-playing roles filled by volunteers?

92% of Australians who take on non-playing roles consider themselves a volunteer in at least one of those roles.

Some receive payment and/or other benefits but most are involved without receiving any compensation.

Note: The total number shown here exceeds 3.3 million because those who take on two or more non-playing roles and get compensated for one but not the others will be counted twice.
The most common non-playing role is coaching

There are an estimated 4.1 million roles being undertaken by 3.3 million Australians aged 15+ across all of the sports and physical activities reported in AusPlay.

Around 774,000 take on multiple roles.

As we saw earlier, only a small proportion of non-playing roles in sport and physical activity are carried out by non-volunteers but this varies by role. Those providing medical or health and safety support are most likely to be non-volunteers.

NON-PLAYING ROLES IN ALL SPORT AND NON-SPORT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Coach, instructor, trainer or teacher: 1,534,000 (13% non-volunteers)
- Official: 1,017,000 (6% non-volunteers)
- Administrator or committee member: 712,000 (5% non-volunteers)
- Team manager or coordinator: 373,000 (4% non-volunteers)
- General/ miscellaneous ad hoc assistance: 283,000 (3% non-volunteers)
- Medical support or health and safety: 63,000 (18% non-volunteers)

Note: the total number of roles exceeds the total number of people performing them as some people take on multiple roles.

% who are non-volunteers
Volunteers in sport
Why do people volunteer in sport?

This section concentrates on those who consider themselves to be volunteers in sport-related activities, even if they receive some form of compensation. Overall, 14% of adults aged 15+ volunteer in sport – that’s around 2.9 million volunteers.

Previous research can provide context to the AusPlay volunteering data. Our market segmentation for volunteers’ research and the development work for the Sport Volunteering National Plan identified different types of volunteers and how motivations to get involved change with age and life stage.

We found that there are four broad types of volunteers:

- **Players or ex-players**
  - Get involved in volunteering because sport is part of their life and they know it doesn’t just run itself.

- **Supporting family members**
  - Get involved in volunteering to support (usually) their children’s sporting activities.

- **Self-improvers**
  - Get involved in volunteering to gain experience and help them progress professionally or academically – often our youngest volunteers.

- **Community-minded**
  - Get involved in volunteering for social reasons and want to give something back to their community – often our older volunteers.

While AusPlay doesn’t ask people why they volunteer in sport, the data clearly highlights the importance of the first two of these broad types – players and family members (particularly parents).

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4. Market Segmentation - Volunteers | Clearinghouse for Sport
Who volunteers in sport?

Players

55% of volunteers are involved as both a player and a volunteer in at least one sport.

The proportion of male volunteers who also play the same sport is higher than for female volunteers – 60% for men, 51% for women.

It’s not asked in AusPlay but our segmentation research found that ex-players also stay involved beyond their playing days.
Parents

Compared with the population, volunteers are much more likely to have children in their household.

Our segmentation research told us those in the 35-54 year group often volunteer to spend time with their child and because they see that jobs need to be done to allow junior sport to happen.

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**VOLUNTEERING IN SPORT BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No children in household</th>
<th>Children in household</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers in sport</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Parents and children influence each other

With parents making up more than two-thirds of volunteers, it might be assumed that this is driven by children’s participation – children start playing sport and parents help out.

Some of the time this will be the case, but the opposite can also occur. If parents are actively involved in sport, their children are also more likely to play, giving them the opportunity to reap the benefits of sport throughout their lives.

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**CHILD PARTICIPATION BASED ON PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

- Parent involved both as a player and in a non-playing role: 89%
- Parent involved only as a player: 68%
- Parent is not involved as a player or volunteer: 56%

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5. AusPlay collects data from only one randomly selected parent and only one randomly selected child in the same household. This data therefore does not consider the influence of both parents on child participation.
Volunteering peaks in the 35-54 year age group

The prevalence of parents in the volunteering ranks is reflected in the age profile of volunteers – almost half are in the 35-54 age group, an age when parents are most likely to have children playing organised sport.

This means that there are:

- **813,000** 15-34 year olds
- **1.4 million** 35-54 year olds
- **700,000** over-55s

... giving up their time to keep community sport running. In the population, these age groups are roughly equal, at about a third each.

The importance of the 35-54 year age group in volunteering is also illustrated when we look at their participation rates...

... they are less likely to participate in organised sport but more likely to volunteer than younger Australians.

Although they volunteer less, the younger and older age groups also make a significant contribution to organised sport. Our segmentation research told us that young people often volunteer to gain experience to put on their resumé, while older volunteers are frequently motivated by social reasons or because they want to give back to their community.

**PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERING RATES IN SPORT BY AGE***

*% of population in each age group*
Just over half of volunteers in sport are men

There are 1.6 million men and 1.3 million women volunteering in sport in Australia.

This reflects the profile of organised sport participants generally – women are less likely than men to participate or volunteer.

There is some indication that young adult women may volunteer in sport more than young adult men but this difference is not statistically significant and should be treated with caution.
Does volunteering differ by location?

Volunteering is more common outside of the major cities where population density is lower, despite participation rates for organised sport being similar across regions. This perhaps reflects the strong role sports clubs play in rural and regional social and community life.

**PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERING IN SPORT BY REGION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Participate in organised sport</th>
<th>Volunteer in sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outer regional/remote</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner regional</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major cities</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* % of adult 15+ population in each geographical area
Can anyone be involved in sport?

We want everyone in the community to have the opportunity to be involved in sport regardless of their background, socio-economic status or physical ability. This section examines if this is currently the case and identifies which groups are under-represented in both participating in organised sport and volunteering in sport.

**INCLUSIVITY OF INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANISED SPORT***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Participate in organised sport</th>
<th>Volunteer in sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Australians</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time student</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;$150k household income</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks language other than English</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$70k household income</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired or on a pension</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged in home duties</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has disability</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* % of adult 15+ population in each group

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Participation in organised sport is lower than average among those who:

- Have disability
- Are engaged in home duties
- Retired or on a pension
- Have the lowest household incomes
- Speak a language other than English at home.

Not all of these groups are under-represented when it comes to volunteering – those engaged in home duties have similar levels of involvement as Australians overall.

There are opportunities to increase both participation in organised sport and volunteering among those in our community who:

- Speak a language other than English at home
- Have the lowest household incomes
- Are retired or on a pension
- Have disability.

Sport Australia will be working with sports over the coming years, through the Sport Volunteering National Plan, to find ways to improve the volunteering experience, broaden its appeal and encourage more of us to get involved.
Roles in sport volunteering

The gender profiles of three of the six main volunteering roles – general assistance, administrators and medical support – are roughly equal between men and women. Team manager roles are predominantly taken on by women, while coaching and official roles are more likely to be undertaken by men.

### VOLUNTEER ROLES IN SPORT BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach, instructor, trainer or teacher (1.3 million)*</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official (946,000)</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator or committee member (656,000)</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team manager or coordinator (354,000)</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General/miscellaneous ad hoc assistance (263,000)</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical support or health and safety (52,000)</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*numbers of volunteer roles

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Roles change as we get older

Our youngest adult volunteers almost always take on the role of official or coach; among 15-17 year old volunteers, 57% officiate and 49% coach (and some do both). As we get older we are more likely to take on other roles – in particular, the likelihood of getting involved as an administrator or committee member increases with age.

* % of sport volunteers in each age group

Note: percentages for each age group exceed 100% because some volunteers take on more than one role.
Officials and coaches are most likely to receive compensation

21% of volunteers in sport are either paid or receive other forms of compensation (such as goods or services) for taking on their role.

This varies from 11% for general assistance to 29% for officials.

**COMPENSATION BY ROLE**

- **Official**
  - 29% received compensation
  - 71% no compensation

- **Coach, instructor, trainer or teacher**
  - 27% received compensation
  - 73% no compensation

- **Medical support or health and safety**
  - 20% received compensation
  - 80% no compensation

- **Team manager or coordinator**
  - 14% received compensation
  - 86% no compensation

- **General/miscellaneous ad hoc assistance**
  - 11% received compensation
  - 89% no compensation

- **Administrator or committee member**
  - 15% received compensation
  - 85% no compensation
Younger officials and coaches are more likely to receive compensation.

- **54%** of officials aged 15-17 get compensated compared with 17% of 35-54 year olds.
- **43%** of coaches aged 15-17 get compensated compared with 18% of 35-54 year olds.

Over half of officials and coaches who received some form of compensation were paid, while administrators were more likely to receive goods/services than payment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF COMPENSATION</th>
<th>Received payment</th>
<th>Received goods/services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, instructor, trainer or teacher</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator or committee member</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which sports attract the most volunteers?

This section examines the sports that have the highest numbers of volunteers and how they differ by gender.

It stands to reason that the sports attracting the most volunteers are the same ones that are most often organised and played in a team environment...

...someone is needed to coach and manage teams, set up grounds and run the canteen.
It also makes sense that, within this group of sports, those with the most participants also have the most volunteers. This is shown clearly below, where team sports with the most organised participants have higher numbers of volunteers.

The one sport that doesn’t follow the pattern is Athletics/running – it has a high number of organised participants but a low number of volunteers. This is due to the nature of organised Athletics/running compared with the other sports – organised participation will often include taking part in mass events such as fun runs or marathons. These events attract high numbers of participants but require relatively few volunteers to run them on the day.

### SPORTS WITH THE MOST VOLUNTEERS

* to make it more comparable to other organised sports, in this analysis Swimming includes only squad training and lessons.
Top 10 sports for volunteer roles by gender

Seven sports – Football/soccer, Australian football, Basketball, Cricket, Rugby league, Athletics/running and Netball – appear in the top ten for both men and women. For women, Swimming, Equestrian and Hockey are included; for men, the top ten includes Rugby union, Bowls and Golf.

### Top 10 Volunteer Sports for Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football/soccer</td>
<td>307,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian football</td>
<td>249,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>159,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>153,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby league</td>
<td>94,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics/running</td>
<td>63,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 10 Volunteer Sports for Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>257,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football/soccer</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>139,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian football</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics/running</td>
<td>68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>46,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby league</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>41,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Snapshot of the top 10 sports for volunteers

Here we take a closer look at the ten sports that have the most volunteer roles, and the profile of those volunteers compared with the sport’s player profile. Note that only individual roles with more than 30,000 volunteers are shown due to the unreliability of estimates smaller than this.

There are some similarities across most sports:

The 35-54 year age group has the largest proportion of volunteers, regardless of the age profile of participants – Hockey and Netball stand out as having the most evenly spread volunteers by age.

The gender profile of volunteers generally follows the profile of the sport’s adult participants.
Football/soccer

INVolvement

Adult participants (at least once a year) 1,156,000
Adult organised participants 843,000
Child participants (organised out-of-school) 682,000
Volunteers 467,000

Volunteers*

Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher 226,000
Official 120,000
Team manager 93,000
Administrator/committee member 54,000
General/miscellaneous 32,000
Other roles 4,000

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

Profile of Volunteers

By any participation

By gender

By age

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Australian football

INVolvement

- Adult participants (at least once a year) 579,000
- Adult organised participants 450,000
- Child participants (organised out-of-school) 341,000
- Volunteers 374,000

Volunteers*

- Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher 133,000
- Official 118,000
- Administrator/committee member 58,000
- General/miscellaneous 54,000
- Team manager 38,000
- Other roles 18,000

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

Profile of Volunteers

By any participation

- Participant 33%
- Non-participant 67%

By gender

- Organised participation
  - Male 71%
  - Female 29%

- Volunteer
  - Male 66%
  - Female 34%

By age

- Organised participation
  - 15-34 years 79%
  - 35-54 years 19%
  - 55+ years 2%

- Volunteer
  - 15-34 years 54%
  - 35-54 years 28%
  - 55+ years 18%
Netball

INVOLVEMENT

Adult participants (at least once a year) 608,000
Adult organised participants 556,000
Child participants (organised out-of-school) 297,000
Volunteers 305,000

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS

By any participation

By gender

By age

VOLUNTEERS*

Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher 141,000
Official 122,000
Team manager 49,000
Administrator/committee member 45,000
Other roles 17,000

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role
Basketball

IN INVOLVEMENT VOLENCE

Adult participants (at least once a year) 910,000
Adult organised participants 558,000
Child participants (organised out-of-school) 370,000
Volunteers 298,000

VOLUNTEERS*:

Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher 147,000
Official 97,000
Team manager 50,000
Administrator/committee member 34,000
Other roles 12,000

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS

By any participation

By gender

By age
## Cricket

### IN Volvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult participants (at least once a year)</td>
<td>526,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult organised participants</td>
<td>376,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child participants (organised out-of-school)</td>
<td>195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>195,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Volunteers*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher</td>
<td>82,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>61,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator/committee member</td>
<td>49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other roles</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

### Profile of Volunteers

#### By any participation

- Non-participant: 50%
- Participant: 50%

#### By gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Organised participation</th>
<th>Volunteer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### By age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Organised participation</th>
<th>Volunteer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-34 years</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-54 years</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+ years</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Athletics/running

IN Volunteering

Adult participants [at least once a year] 3,979,000
Adult organised participants 1,003,000
Child participants [organised out-of-school] 224,000
Volunteers 131,000

Volunteers*

Official 47,000
Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher 39,000
Other roles 65,000

*Number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

Profile of Volunteers

By any participation

By gender

By age
Rugby league

INVERVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult participants (at least once a year)</td>
<td>163,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult organised participants</td>
<td>132,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child participants (organised out-of-school)</td>
<td>152,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>139,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS

By any participation

- Participant: 22%
- Non-participant: 78%

By gender

Organised participation

- Male: 86%
- Female: 14%

Volunteer

- Male: 68%
- Female: 32%

By age

Organised participation

- 15-34 years: 22%
- 35-54 years: 54%
- 55+ years: 24%

Volunteer

- 15-34 years: 81%
- 35-54 years: 17%
- 55+ years: 2%
Rugby union

**IN INVOLVEMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult participants</td>
<td>143,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult organised participants</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child participants (organised out-of-school)</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>97,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOLUNTEERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other roles</td>
<td>64,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

**PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS**

**By any participation**

- Participant: 31%
- Non-participant: 69%

**By gender**

- Male: 82% organised participation, 73% volunteer
- Female: 18% organised participation, 27% volunteer

**By age**

- 15-34 years: 77% organised participation, 57% volunteer
- 35-54 years: 10% organised participation, 18% volunteer
- 55+ years: 10% organised participation, 18% volunteer
Swimming

ININVOLVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult participants</td>
<td>3,590,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult organised participants*</td>
<td>174,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child participants</td>
<td>1,656,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>103,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* squad/club training and lessons only, excludes use of venue for casual swimming

VOLUNTEERS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other roles</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS

By any participation

- 58% Participant
- 42% Non-participant

By gender

- Male
  - Organised participation: 39%
  - Volunteer: 33%

- Female
  - Organised participation: 81%
  - Volunteer: 87%

By age

- 15-34 years
  - Organised participation: 57%
  - Volunteer: 29%

- 35-54 years
  - Organised participation: 14%
  - Volunteer: 22%

- 55+ years
  - Organised participation: 22%
  - Volunteer: 20%
Hockey

**INVOLVEMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult participants (at least once a year)</td>
<td>163,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult organised participants</td>
<td>154,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child participants (organised out-of-school)</td>
<td>78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOLUNTEERS***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach/trainer/instructor/teacher</td>
<td>43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other roles</td>
<td>71,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*number of roles exceeds number of volunteers because some people take on more than one role

**PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS**

**By any participation**

- Participant: 70%
- Non-participant: 30%

**By gender**

- Male: 46% (organised participation), 46% (volunteer)
- Female: 54% (organised participation), 54% (volunteer)

**By age**

- 15-34 years: 36% (organised participation), 45% (volunteer)
- 35-54 years: 36% (organised participation), 45% (volunteer)
- 55+ years: 11% (organised participation), 19% (volunteer)
Volunteering beyond 2021

As with most aspects of life, volunteering in sport has been significantly affected by COVID-19, due to both organised sport being limited and concern among volunteers about returning.

In April–June 2021, Sport Australia’s Community Perceptions Monitor asked those who previously volunteered in sport whether they had returned to their roles since restrictions were eased...

61% (or only three in five) were found to have done so.

The restrictions in the second half of 2021 will only exacerbate this issue and have added to the need for the considered and collaborative approach to attracting and retaining volunteers outlined in the Sport Volunteering National Plan.

Sport Australia is looking forward to working with sports over the coming years to activate the plan and get more Australians involved in sport.

6. A monthly survey of 500 Australians aged 18+ about interest in and perceptions of a range of sport categories and topics. Data used here was collected during April to June 2021.
Any further questions about AusPlay (or queries for additional customised reporting/ further analysis of the dataset) can be directed to the Insights team at Sport Australia via:

AusPlay@sportaus.gov.au