



# **Sport Volunteers and Other Volunteers**

**Some Data From the  
2002 General Social Survey**

**National Centre for Culture and Recreation  
Statistics**

**Report prepared for the Standing Committee on  
Recreation and Sport**

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## **Sport Volunteers and Other Volunteers – Some Data From the 2002 General Social Survey**

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## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
GSS	General Social Survey
NCCRS	National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics (section within the ABS)
SCORS	Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport
SRG	SCORS Research Group
VWS	Voluntary Work Survey

## 1 Introduction

This report completes a project on the 2004-05 SCORS Research Group (SRG) Work Plan to analyse data from the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS) – as relevant to volunteers – with a view to determining the population groups more likely to volunteer, and any social factors that may act as motivators. The GSS has provided the opportunity to include in the analysis a much wider range of social and demographic characteristics (all collected as part of the same survey) than has previously been possible. The characteristics which have not previously been included in an analysis of volunteering, but are examined in this report, are listed at the beginning of section 5.

This report also provides a brief summary of the main findings of the earlier report, *Australia's Sports Volunteers 2000*, and reviews some of the literature relating to motives for volunteering, and the recruitment, training and retention of volunteers.

Voluntary work makes an important contribution to the way of life in Australia. It enables many organisations such as community and welfare groups, environmental groups, sporting clubs and emergency service providers to meet the demand for their services. Many sporting clubs could not exist without the support of volunteers. Even clubs which compete in elite national competitions depend, to some extent, on their efforts.

Hence volunteering is important to the sustainability of the sporting clubs industry. By extension, volunteering is also important to the development and cohesion of communities, particularly those in rural areas. This is because sporting clubs often provide a focal point for community activity.

For the purposes of ABS surveys, a volunteer is regarded as someone who willingly gave unpaid help, in the form of time, services or skills, through an organisation or group within Australia. People who did voluntary work overseas only are excluded. The reimbursement of expenses in full or part (e.g. token payments) or small gifts (e.g. sports club T-shirts or caps) are not regarded as payment of salary, and people who received these are still included as volunteers. However, people who received payment in kind for the work they did (e.g. receiving farm produce instead of money as payment for work done on a farm) are excluded.

For both the 2000 Voluntary Work Survey (VWS) and the 2002 GSS, the organisation category which included sports organisations also included organisations involved in non-sports recreation and hobbies. For the 2000 VWS, it was possible to further disaggregate this category to exclude non-sports organisations, and *Australia's Sports Volunteers 2000* was prepared on this basis. However, for the 2002 GSS, it has not been possible to disaggregate the organisation category. Hence, it should be noted that all references to sport volunteers made in this report with regard to the 2002 GSS actually refer to persons who volunteered for an organisation involved in sport, recreation or a hobby.

The 2000 VWS found that the total number of adults who volunteered for organisations in the sport, recreation and hobby category was 1,498,900. When this category was disaggregated to remove non-sports organisations, it was found that the number who volunteered for sports organisations was 1,140,700. Thus volunteers for sports organisations made up 76% of the volunteers for sport, recreation and hobby organisations.

This percentage can provide a rough guide to the percentage of volunteers for sport, recreation and hobby organisations which is made up of volunteers for sports organisations in the data from the 2002 GSS. However, there are two points which should be noted. One is that the percentage is for total volunteers – it may vary if the data are disaggregated by volunteer characteristics. The second is that the percentage may vary because of methodological differences in the surveys. As a result, the figure of 76% should be used with caution, and as a rough guide only.

More recent data with relevance for sport volunteers are available in the publication *Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia, April 2004* (cat. no. 6285.0) which was released on 8 February 2005. This publication presents data from the April 2004 Survey of Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities. These data include details regarding persons involved in sports organisations in

unpaid non-playing roles (i.e. sport volunteers). Because of the different scopes of the surveys, the sport volunteer data presented in 6285.0 for April 2004 are not directly comparable with sport volunteer data from the 2002 GSS. However, the data are directly comparable with the sport volunteer data presented in previous issues of 6285.0 for March 1993, March 1997 and April 2001.

The GSS will next be conducted in respect of 2006. The sport volunteer data obtained from the 2006 survey will be directly comparable with the corresponding data for 2002.

## 2 Volunteers – Literature relating to motivation, recruitment, training and retention

### Motives for volunteering

In the 1997 paper *Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers* by the New Zealand Hillary Commission, it is stated that there are many reasons for people choosing to work for a club or organisation on a voluntary basis. These include

- learning new skills
- gaining training
- helping others
- increasing enthusiasm and energy
- sharing talents, abilities and experience
- fighting boredom
- making new friends
- building self-confidence
- exploring career opportunities
- feeling needed, useful and appreciated
- gaining a new direction in life
- giving something back to the community
- being a team member
- getting closer to the sport or activity an organisation represents
- contributing to the sport or activity an organisation represents
- having fun and enjoying themselves.

In 2004, Volunteering South Australia Inc produced a paper entitled *It's Easy, Click Here – Young People In Volunteering* looking at the volunteering experience from the point of view of young people. This stated that the reasons for young people volunteering are as many and varied as for adults, but that they are likely to respond positively to volunteering that actively provides opportunities for personal growth and development. Reasons for young people volunteering include

- family and cultural ethics and values
- meeting social needs to belong
- gaining experience relevant to work aspirations
- altruism
- encouragement through schools promoting civic responsibility
- promotion by volunteer organisations.

The Institute of Social Change and Critical Inquiry in the Arts Faculty of the University of Wollongong published a paper entitled *My Time is Not a Gift to Government* in 2002. This paper was a study of NSW community legal centre volunteers but has relevance for volunteering generally.

The study makes the point that volunteers are not a homogeneous group of people. There are different motivational factors which appeal to different groups. Also, people are more likely to volunteer for an organisation if they identify with its goals and functions.

Some theories of volunteer motivation are mentioned. The Life-Cycle Theory suggests that the different stages of life present people with opportunities to be involved in various voluntary activities associated with each of these stages. An example of this would be parents of dependent children volunteering to assist their children's sporting clubs in some capacity.

The Activity Theory suggests that a person's quality of life is improved by increasing social interaction and that this is particularly important for the elderly. Volunteering is one means of achieving the desired increase in social interaction.

Other theories identify the following motivational factors for volunteering

- altruism
- egoistic need
- social and moral obligation
- desire to gain new skills and experience
- desire to do something worthwhile in spare time
- personal satisfaction.

The University of Wollongong paper also mentions a 1996 study which found that

- people like to get something back from their volunteering efforts, and that this is an essential ingredient in maintaining motivation
- motivation is usually tied up with a personal interest in an organisation or the activity it fosters
- sport was a way by which people in rural areas found social acceptance and recognition.

### **Barriers to volunteering**

The Volunteering South Australia Inc paper (*It's Easy, Click Here – Young People In Volunteering*) identified a range of barriers to volunteering by young people. Among these were the commitment of young people to other priorities such as family, education, work and socialising; and the image of volunteering not being attractive to many young people. In addition, there were organisational barriers and personal constraints. The organisational barriers were

- inflexible volunteering programs providing limited numbers of appropriate places
- failure of organisations to offer accessible sites and alternative times for volunteering
- lack of tolerance of young people
- inability to relate to young people
- staff turnover creating lack of continuity by mentors and volunteer managers
- limited information and clarity about the roles of volunteers and what is expected of them
- lack of procedures for monitoring and evaluation of volunteers
- lack of role models for young volunteers
- limited opportunities for personal growth and development of young volunteers
- costs of insurance cover
- lack of remuneration for 'out-of-pocket' expenses
- lack of tolerance of young people by organisation clients.

The personal constraints were

- choice of volunteering limited by lack of skills, training, life experience or maturity
- lack of understanding about volunteering
- low income levels
- limited life experience (including lack of family involvement in volunteering)
- lack of acceptance of young people with disabilities
- lack of availability of child-care
- lack of time
- cost and availability of transport
- geographic isolation
- language and other cultural barriers
- focus on need for higher levels of formal education and training.

## Recruitment, training and retention of volunteers

Active Australia has a Volunteer Management Program and the Resources Outline for this program makes some points about the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

According to the Resources Outline, new volunteers frequently become involved because of personal contact with friends or relatives who are already involved. However, people need to be asked to volunteer and, once asked, they need a realistic preview of what a job entails. In addition, it is important to emphasise to them the benefits to volunteers of volunteering, rather than the benefits to the organisation.

In order to retain volunteers, or at least minimise volunteer turnover, it is important that the organisation make them feel valued and develop a sense of organisational commitment among them. Volunteers should be kept inspired, committed and exhibiting high levels of performance, but this requires effective leadership which, in turn, requires that organisation leaders have positive attitudes about people.

It is also important to have clearly stated and communicated policies with respect to volunteers, because these allow volunteer management processes and priorities to become more transparent both to the volunteers themselves and also to any other stakeholders. The appointment of a Volunteer Coordinator will provide recognition of the importance of volunteers to the effective operation of an organisation.

The Hillary Commission paper (*Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers*), suggests that volunteer recruitment should be carefully planned rather than conducted on a piecemeal or ad hoc basis and that, in advance of any recruitment, it is necessary to establish

- the number of volunteers required, what they will be doing, when and for how long
- the demands that will be made on the volunteer, and by whom
- the level of authority the volunteer will have, and the person to whom they are answerable
- the level of support the volunteer will have
- whether there is time for established volunteers to work with new volunteers
- whether established volunteers and other personnel will accept the new volunteers
- the sort of people required and the type of skills they will need
- position descriptions for key roles such as President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The various options for a recruitment campaign include

- advertising in local and community newspapers
- a letterbox drop
- producing volunteer information kits
- running community information evenings and social events where existing volunteers can share positive experiences
- making a video about the organisation.

It is important not to take just anyone who volunteers. There should be a selection process in place to ensure that prospective volunteers are capable of meeting the requirements of the position for which they are volunteering.

The Hillary Commission paper also says that it is essential to have a training plan for volunteers in order for an organisation to function effectively and that sources of training should be established. These sources could come from within the club, from sports leagues and associations, from community and service organisations, or from elsewhere.

With regard to retaining volunteers, the Hillary Commission paper says that a successful retention strategy should be built around induction, support and recognition.



The induction process should include

- meeting new volunteers and making them feel welcome, special and appreciated from the start
- spending some time exploring their interests, reasons for volunteering and expectations
- briefing them on the organisation's goals, people and facilities
- outlining their intended role and responsibilities
- encouraging questions
- identifying any training needs
- providing a 'buddy system' for support.

The provision of support should include

- showing appreciation of a job well done
- continually offering help and support
- giving, or recommending sources of, any training required
- regularly listening to what volunteers have to say
- strengthening links between volunteer team members.

A volunteer recognition programme is particularly important to a successful volunteer retention strategy. Recognition could include

- certificates, letters or postcards of appreciation and thanks
- giving identification pins, t-shirts
- acknowledgement in club newsletters, and during committee meetings
- volunteer awards presented at the AGM, or a 'Volunteer of the Month' award
- complimentary tickets to special events and functions
- discounts at sport stores or restaurants, or meal and petrol vouchers
- awarding life memberships
- sending get well and birthday cards
- reimbursement of 'out of pocket expenses'
- holding social events in honour of volunteers
- farewelling people when they move away from the area or organisation
- providing opportunities to meet key sports people
- displaying photographs of or by volunteers in the clubhouse.

The University of Wollongong paper (*My Time is Not a Gift to Government*) states that one of the main reasons for people getting involved in volunteering is personal contact. That is, they get involved because they are asked by a family member, friend or acquaintance, or they are contacted by an organisation with which they are already involved.

On the other hand, people stop volunteering because of changes in their personal circumstances, because of over-commitment or because they have become disenchanted.

Volunteers can become disenchanted because of

- their expectations not being met
- insufficient support or appreciation
- poor organisational management
- non-reimbursement of personal expenses
- inadequate training
- insufficient involvement in decision making
- inadequate role specification.

The University of Wollongong paper refers to five strategies for retaining and expanding the Australian volunteer base which were originally suggested by J Noble in 2000. These strategies are to

- recognise that volunteering occurs across a wide range of fields
- increase state and federal government funding of individuals who volunteer and organisations which work with volunteers
- develop a common definition of volunteering and voluntary work
- encourage the active participation of younger people in volunteering
- develop a better picture of volunteering needs and activities in country and rural areas.

### 3 Summary of main findings of 2000 Voluntary Work Survey

Prior to the 2002 GSS, the most recent ABS data relating to volunteers were sourced from the 2000 VWS, conducted as part of the Population Survey Monitor over the four quarterly surveys for 2000. The results of the 2000 VWS, as they related to sports volunteers, were detailed in the report *Australia's Sports Volunteers 2000* which was prepared for SCORS by NCCRS and released in February 2003. The main findings of this report are summarised in the following paragraphs.

Sports organisations (excluding those associated with the conduct of the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games) accounted for about one-quarter (26%) of the total number of volunteers in Australia in 2000. In terms of hours of work, sports involvements accounted for almost one-fifth (19%) of the total number of hours contributed by all volunteers.

While sports volunteers shared many of the characteristics of other volunteers, they were more likely than other volunteers to

- be male
- be born in Australia
- be employed full-time
- have children aged 5 to 14 years
- have relatively high household incomes
- live in areas other than the capital cities.

The most common type of sports organisation to be assisted by volunteers was football clubs (these accounted for 25% of all sports involvements). Other types of sports organisation to each account for at least five per cent of sports involvements included water sports, bowls, cricket, netball and golf.

Like volunteers for other organisations, most of the sports volunteers incurred expenses when undertaking voluntary work with most not able to claim reimbursement for these. However, in spite of this, over one-fifth of these people had worked for the sports organisation for over ten years. Reasons why they undertook the work included a personal or family involvement in the organisation, the personal satisfaction they gained from the involvement, and the fact that they had helped others in the community.

#### **4 2002 General Social Survey – Questions and data items for volunteers**

As part of the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS), respondents were shown a prompt card listing twelve types of organisation. The organisation types appeared on the prompt card as follows.

- 10 Sport / Recreation / Hobby
- 11 Welfare / Community
- 12 Health
- 13 Emergency Services
- 14 Education / Training / Youth Development
- 15 Religious
- 16 Environmental / Animal Welfare
- 17 Business / Professional / Union
- 18 Law / Justice / Political
- 19 Arts / Culture
- 20 Foreign / International  
(excluding work done overseas)
- 21 Other organisation

The respondents were then asked the following question.

'Since this time last year, did you do any unpaid voluntary work for any of these types of organisations?'

If a respondent answered in the affirmative, the interviewer then prompted them for (and recorded) the type or types of organisation for which they had done voluntary work.

For the purposes of the 2002 GSS, the category Sport/recreation/hobby includes organisations in general and specialised fields of sport, recreation and leisure; sports clubs and facilities; indoor and outdoor recreational facilities; racing and gambling; social, leisure and hobby clubs; zoological, botanical, recreational parks and gardens; and theme and amusement parks. Also included are hobby and general interest groups such as bird watchers' groups, book clubs, embroiderers' guilds, and gardening clubs.

From the above description, it is clear that the category Sport/recreation/hobby includes organisations which fall outside the scope of Sport itself. Unfortunately, it is not possible to disaggregate the category in order to remove these organisations. Hence, the 2002 GSS data relating to sport volunteers have a limitation in that an unknown number of persons are included who volunteered for non-sport recreation organisations or hobby organisations rather than sports organisations.

Analysis of the results of the 2000 VWS indicated that 24% of volunteers for organisations in the Sport/recreation/hobby category were actually volunteers for non-sport recreation organisations or hobby organisations. With regard to 2002 GSS data, this percentage should be used with caution – and as a rough guide only. (See the seventh and eighth paragraphs of section 1.)

## 5 2002 General Social Survey – Data and Commentary for Volunteers

The purpose of this section of the report is to focus on information relating to volunteers which has been obtained from the 2002 GSS. The proportions of the adult population which volunteered, with respect to various social and demographic characteristics, are examined in turn. For many of these characteristics, the advent of the 2002 GSS has made it possible to analyse their impact on volunteering for the first time. The characteristics examined below, which have not previously been included in an analysis of volunteering, are

- Degree of geographic remoteness
- Occupation
- Participation in sport
- Attendance at sport
- Standard household type
- Family type
- Type of couple family
- Index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage
- Languages spoken at home
- Cultural attendance
- Victims of crime.

The 2002 GSS found that, at the time of interview in 2002, there were 1,757,000 persons aged 18 years and over who had undertaken voluntary work during the previous 12 months for an organisation or group involved in sport, recreation or a hobby. These persons (henceforth referred to as sport volunteers) comprised 12.1% of the total adult population of 14,503,000. A further 22.3% (3,232,000 persons) of the adult population undertook voluntary work for organisations or groups involved in other fields or activities (henceforth referred to as other volunteers). Persons who undertook voluntary work for both 'sport' and 'other' organisations are included in the figures for sport volunteers only.

## Sex

Overall, the proportion of females who undertook unpaid voluntary work (35.1%) was slightly higher than the corresponding figure for males (33.7%). However, males were more likely than females to volunteer for sport organisations, while females were more likely than males to volunteer for other organisations. The proportion of males who were sport volunteers was 15.1%, whereas only 9.2% of females were sport volunteers. On the other hand, 25.9% of females were other volunteers, compared with only 18.5% of males.

This result is similar to the findings of the 2000 VWS, from which it was concluded that "males were more likely to be involved as volunteers in sports organisations than females – their participation rate [in volunteering] was 10%, compared with 7% for females. As a consequence, about three-fifths (60%) of volunteers working for sports organisations were male." The lower sport volunteer rates from the 2000 VWS were largely the result of the narrower (and purer) scope of its sport volunteer category as mentioned previously in sections 1 and 4.

**Table 1** VOLUNTEERS, By type and sex – 2002

	NUMBER			PER CENT		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Sport volunteers	1,084.3	672.4	1,756.7	15.1	9.2	12.1
Other volunteers	1,331.0	1,901.3	3,232.3	18.5	25.9	22.3
Non-volunteers	4,761.2	4,753.1	9,514.3	66.3	64.9	65.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,176.5</b>	<b>7,326.8</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Age group

The 2002 GSS found that, in the three youngest age groups (up to 34 years), the proportion of persons who were sport volunteers was around 11%. The sport volunteer rate increased sharply thereafter, and peaked at 18.9% for persons aged 40 - 44 years. After the age of 50 years there was a marked decline in this rate, down to its lowest point of 4.7% for persons aged 70 years and over.

The 2000 VWS found a similar pattern amongst the younger age groups and that "people aged 35 to 44 years were those most likely to be involved as volunteers in sport – about one in eight (12%) worked in a voluntary capacity for a sports organisation in the year before interview. " Also, the age group with the next highest sport volunteer rate was "people aged 45 to 54 years, with 9% being involved. People aged 55 years and over had the lowest participation rate [in sport volunteering] (4%)."

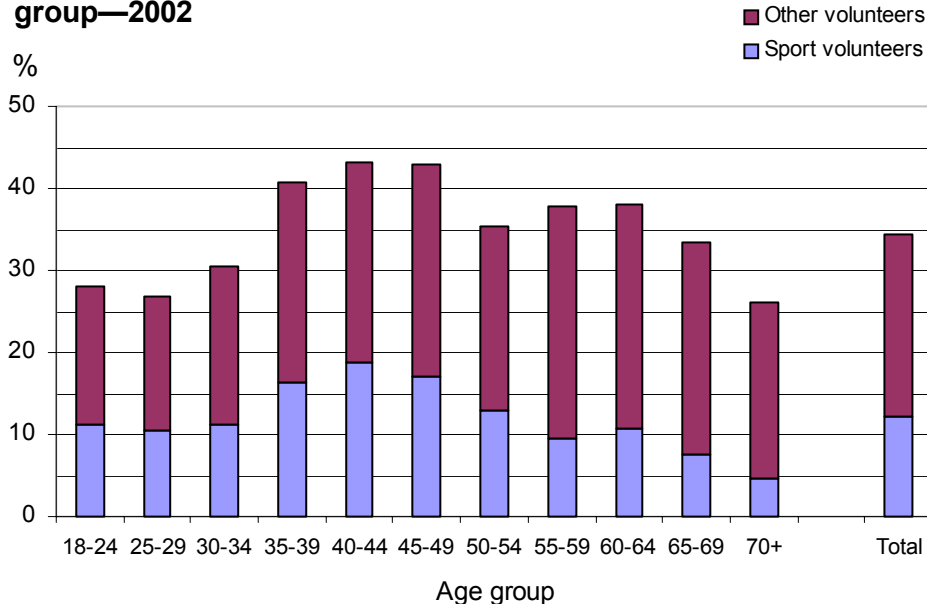
One would expect lower sport volunteer rates from the 2000 VWS because its narrower sport volunteer category excludes persons volunteering for recreation or hobby organisations. However, the VWS sport volunteer rate of only 4% for persons aged 55 and over is much lower than the equivalent rate from the 2002 GSS. It is expected that this is because the GSS data for the older age groups are likely to include a higher proportion of recreation and hobby volunteers, relative to purely sport volunteers, than for the younger age groups.

Although consistently higher than the corresponding figure for sport, the proportion of persons identified by the 2002 GSS as being other volunteers was – as for sport – lower for young people than it was for the middle-aged. The other volunteer rate generally increased with the age group, peaking at 28.4% for persons aged 55 - 59 years, an age group for which the sport volunteer rate (9.5%) had already declined to be half its peak level. Unlike the sport volunteer rate, the other volunteer rate did not decline markedly with advancing age and, even for persons aged 70 and over, was still well over 20%.

**Table 2 VOLUNTEERS, By type and age group – 2002**

Age group (years)	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	Sport volunteers	Other volunteers	Non- volunteers	Total	Sport volunteers	Other volunteers	Non- volunteers	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
18 - 24	212.8	322.2	1,369.9	1,904.9	11.2	16.9	71.9	100.0
25 - 29	148.9	234.4	1,039.2	1,422.5	10.5	16.5	73.1	100.0
30 - 34	168.2	284.9	1,031.6	1,484.7	11.3	19.2	69.5	100.0
35 - 39	235.2	354.0	858.9	1,448.1	16.2	24.4	59.3	100.0
40 - 44	280.5	361.8	842.4	1,484.7	18.9	24.4	56.7	100.0
45 - 49	235.7	353.4	785.9	1,375.0	17.1	25.7	57.2	100.0
50 - 54	163.7	283.8	822.1	1,269.6	12.9	22.4	64.8	100.0
55 - 59	100.8	303.0	662.1	1,065.8	9.5	28.4	62.1	100.0
60 - 64	87.7	224.0	506.6	818.3	10.7	27.4	61.9	100.0
65 - 69	51.0	176.6	452.1	679.6	7.5	26.0	66.5	100.0
70 and over	72.1	334.2	1,143.7	1,550.0	4.7	21.6	73.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 1 VOLUNTEER RATES, By type and age group—2002**



## **State or territory and major region**

The highest sport volunteer rates were recorded by the two territories; Northern Territory with 17.9% and the Australian Capital Territory with 15.4%. On the other hand, the lowest rates were recorded by the states with the largest populations; New South Wales with 11.7% and Victoria with 11.3%.

Although ranked highly in terms of their sport volunteer rates, South Australia and Northern Territory recorded the lowest other volunteer rates at 20.7% and 21.7% respectively. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest other volunteer rate at 26.0%.

For both sport and other volunteers, the Australian volunteer rate was lower for capital cities than it was for the rest of the country. For sport volunteers, the difference was greater than for other volunteers. The sport volunteer rate for the rest of the country was 15.6%, which was 52.9% higher than the rate of 10.2% which applied for capital cities. However, at 24.7%, the other volunteer rate for the rest of the country was only 17.6% higher than the capital cities rate of 21.0%.

The difference in sport volunteer rates between the capital city and the balance of the state was most pronounced in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. For all three states, the rate for the balance of the state was approximately double the rate for the capital city. The difference in sport volunteer rates was least pronounced in Queensland where the rate for the balance of the state was only 8.6% higher than the rate for the capital city.

For other volunteer rates, the difference between the capital city and the balance of the state was greatest in South Australia where the rate for the balance of the state was 41.7% greater. In Tasmania, on the other hand, the other volunteer rate for the balance of the state was actually lower (by 4.8%) than the rate for the capital city.



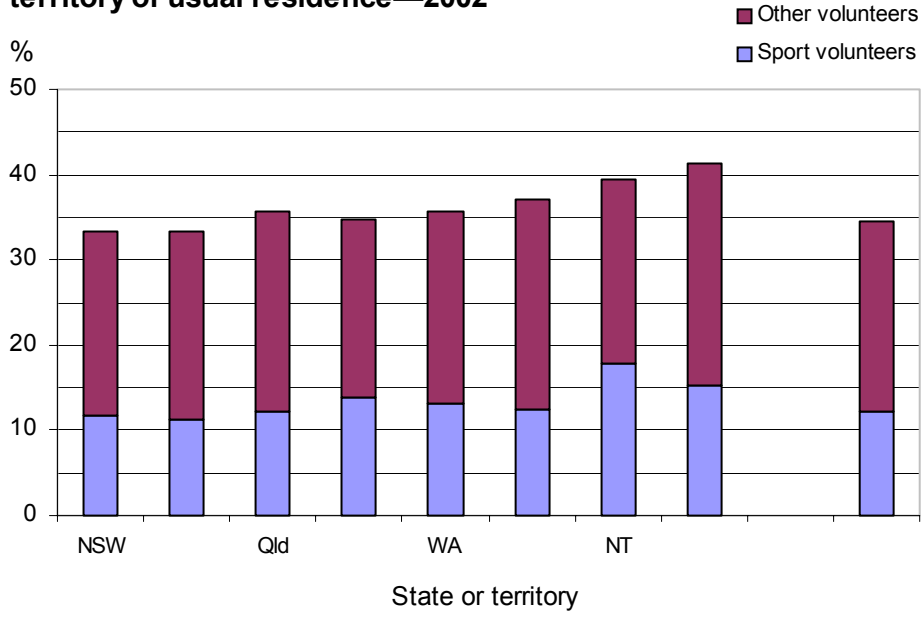
**Table 3** VOLUNTEERS, By type, state or territory of usual residence, and major region – 2002

Table 3 VOLUNTEERS, By type, state or territory of usual residence, and major region – 2002								
	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
CAPITAL CITY								
New South Wales	321.3	639.7	2,238.3	3,199.3	10.0	20.0	70.0	100.0
Victoria	240.1	565.0	1,892.6	2,697.7	8.9	20.9	70.2	100.0
Queensland	143.4	283.7	814.1	1,241.2	11.6	22.9	65.6	100.0
South Australia	91.7	157.1	590.9	839.7	10.9	18.7	70.4	100.0
Western Australia	121.5	247.4	739.7	1,108.6	11.0	22.3	66.7	100.0
Tasmania	14.4	36.0	92.7	143.1	10.1	25.2	64.8	100.0
<i>Australia(a)</i>	<i>967.9</i>	<i>1,989.0</i>	<i>6,503.8</i>	<i>9,460.8</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>68.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>
BALANCE OF STATE								
New South Wales	250.3	426.8	1,020.9	1,698.1	14.7	25.1	60.1	100.0
Victoria	174.6	240.5	550.0	965.2	18.1	24.9	57.0	100.0
Queensland	184.1	353.7	923.9	1,461.7	12.6	24.2	63.2	100.0
South Australia	66.4	77.9	149.7	294.0	22.6	26.5	50.9	100.0
Western Australia	65.7	73.1	177.5	316.3	20.8	23.1	56.1	100.0
Tasmania	28.8	48.4	124.7	201.8	14.3	24.0	61.8	100.0
<i>Australia(b)</i>	<i>788.8</i>	<i>1,243.2</i>	<i>3,010.5</i>	<i>5,042.6</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>59.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>
TOTAL								
New South Wales	571.6	1066.5	3259.2	4897.4	11.7	21.8	66.6	100.0
Victoria	414.8	805.5	2442.6	3662.9	11.3	22.0	66.7	100.0
Queensland	327.5	637.3	1738.0	2702.8	12.1	23.6	64.3	100.0
South Australia	158.0	235.1	740.7	1133.8	13.9	20.7	65.3	100.0
Western Australia	187.2	320.5	917.2	1424.9	13.1	22.5	64.4	100.0
Tasmania	43.2	84.4	217.4	344.9	12.5	24.5	63.0	100.0
Northern Territory	18.8	22.9	63.8	105.5	17.9	21.7	60.5	100.0
Aust Capital Territory	35.5	60.2	135.4	231.1	15.4	26.0	58.6	100.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

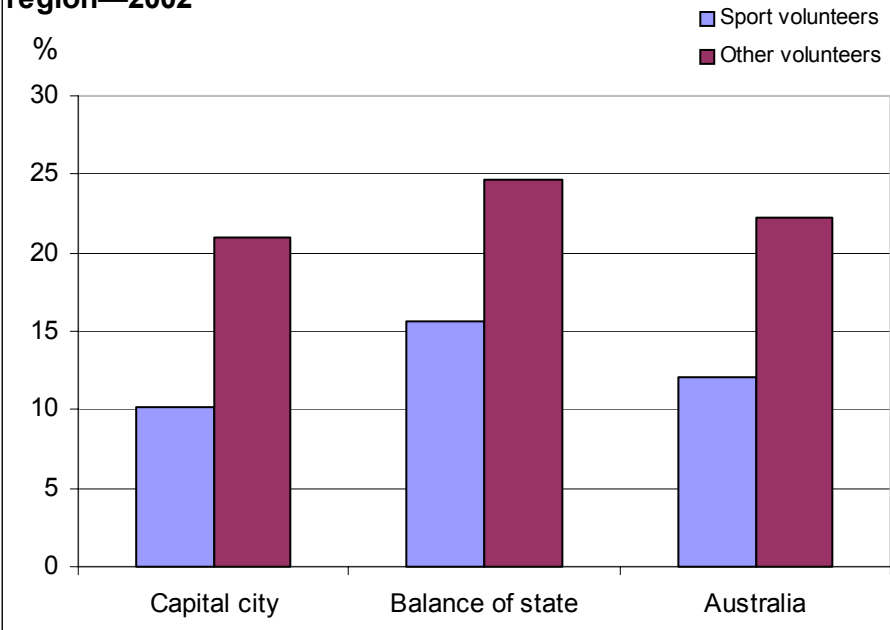
(a) Includes all of ACT, none of NT.

(b) Includes all of NT, none of ACT.

**Figure 2 VOLUNTEER RATES, by type and state or territory of usual residence—2002**



**Figure 3 VOLUNTEER RATES, by type and major region—2002**



## Degree of remoteness

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) comprises a number of structures, one of which is the Remoteness Structure. This classifies all places in Australia to one of six Remoteness Areas. These are

- Major cities
- Inner regions
- Outer regions
- Remote regions
- Very remote regions
- Migratory.

In table 4 the latter three areas have been combined under the category Remote regions. This was necessary because of the high relative standard errors applying for the three areas individually.

The Remoteness Area to which a place is classified is determined by its Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) index value. ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre in each of five size classes. These classes are for urban centres with populations of

- 1,000 – 4,999
- 5,000 – 17,999
- 18,000 – 47,999
- 48,000 – 249,999
- 250,000 and over.

On this basis, Geelong, Wollongong and Newcastle are classified to Major cities, whereas Hobart is classified to Inner regions and Darwin to Outer regions. A map of Australia showing all Remoteness Areas is included as an appendix to this report.

The sport volunteer rates for the inner and outer regions of Australia were similar at 16.7% and 16.3% respectively, but considerably higher than the rate of 9.9% recorded for the major cities. At 23.9%, the sport volunteer rate for the remote regions was appreciably higher again, and almost one and a half times greater than the rate applying in the major cities.

In contrast with the sport volunteer rate, the other volunteer rate exhibited little variation between areas. Its low point was 21.2% in the major cities, while its high of 25.7% in the outer regions was little over a fifth more than the major cities rate.

The sport volunteer rate was appreciably less than the other volunteer rate for the major cities, and for the inner and the outer regions. However, for the remote regions, the sport volunteer rate of 23.9% was slightly higher than the other volunteer rate of 22.9%.

**Table 4** VOLUNTEERS, By type and degree of remoteness – 2002

Area	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Major cities	984.1	2,100.7	6,845.6	9,930.3	9.9	21.2	68.9	100.0
Inner regions	471.0	686.5	1,661.5	2,819.1	16.7	24.4	58.9	100.0
Outer regions	252.1	397.6	897.0	1,546.7	16.3	25.7	58.0	100.0
Remote regions	49.5	47.4	110.3	207.2	23.9	22.9	53.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Labour force status

At 15.4%, the sport volunteer rate for employed persons was more than double the rates for unemployed persons (6.5%) and persons not in the labour force (6.3%). Persons employed full-time had a sport volunteer rate of 15.7% which was slightly higher than the part-time rate of 14.6%.

This result is consistent with the finding from the 2000 VWS that: "Employed people were more likely to be involved in voluntary capacities in sport than other people (a participation rate [in sport volunteering] of 11% compared with 4%)." The lower sport volunteer rates from the 2000 VWS are consistent with the narrower scope of its sport volunteer category compared with the 2002 GSS.

For other volunteers, there was little difference in the volunteer rates for the employed (22.1%), unemployed (21.7%) and persons not in the labour force (22.7%). However, the rate of 27.5% for persons employed part-time was much higher (by 38.2%) than the full-time rate of 19.9%.

The sport volunteer rate for males employed full-time (18.5%) was greater than the rate for males employed part-time (15.6%). However, for females, the reverse was the case. Females employed part-time had a sport volunteer rate of 14.2% compared with the full-time rate of only 10.0%.

The extent to which the other volunteer rate for females exceeded the rate for males was much greater for persons employed part-time than for persons employed full-time. Females employed part-time had an other volunteer rate of 30.3% compared with the male rate of 20.2%. The corresponding rates for persons employed full-time were 21.8% for females and 19.0% for males. These figures also show that the extent to which the other volunteer rate for persons employed part-time exceeded the full-time rate was much greater for females (30.3% and 21.8%) than it was for males (20.2% and 19.0%).

**Table 5** VOLUNTEERS, By type, labour force status, and sex – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>		<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	
'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%	
<b>MALES</b>								
Employed								
Full-time	817.9	838.9	2,758.3	4,415.1	18.5	19.0	62.5	100.0
Part-time	117.4	151.9	482.8	752.2	15.6	20.2	64.2	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>935.4</i>	<i>990.9</i>	<i>3,241.1</i>	<i>5,167.3</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>19.2</i>	<i>62.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Unemployed	24.2	54.0	230.3	308.6	7.8	17.5	74.6	100.0
Not in the labour force	124.7	286.1	1,289.8	1,700.6	7.3	16.8	75.8	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,084.3</i>	<i>1,331.0</i>	<i>4,761.2</i>	<i>7,176.5</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>66.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Employed								
Full-time	217.3	473.9	1,486.3	2,177.6	10.0	21.8	68.3	100.0
Part-time	276.5	588.8	1,079.1	1,944.4	14.2	30.3	55.5	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>493.8</i>	<i>1,062.8</i>	<i>2,565.4</i>	<i>4,122.0</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>25.8</i>	<i>62.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Unemployed	*12.8	69.1	177.6	259.5	*5.0	26.6	68.4	100.0
Not in the labour force	165.7	769.4	2,010.2	2,945.3	5.6	26.1	68.3	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>672.4</i>	<i>1,901.3</i>	<i>4,753.1</i>	<i>7,326.8</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>64.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Employed								
Full-time	1,035.3	1,312.9	4,244.6	6,592.7	15.7	19.9	64.4	100.0
Part-time	393.9	740.8	1,561.9	2,696.6	14.6	27.5	57.9	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,429.2</i>	<i>2,053.7</i>	<i>5,806.5</i>	<i>9,289.3</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>22.1</i>	<i>62.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Unemployed	37.1	123.1	407.9	568.1	6.5	21.7	71.8	100.0
Not in the labour force	290.5	1,055.5	3,300.0	4,645.9	6.3	22.7	71.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

## Occupation

Managers and administrators had the highest sport volunteer rate at 19.7%. They were followed by Professionals, Associate professionals, and Tradespersons and related workers which all had sport volunteer rates just over 18.0%. The occupation classes recording the lowest sport volunteer rates were Labourers and related workers with 9.8%, and Elementary clerical, sales and service workers with 10.2%. However, these rates were still well in excess of the sport volunteer rate for persons not employed, which was only 6.3%.

For other volunteers, there was a wider range of volunteer rates among the different occupation classes. The highest rate was recorded by Professionals with 32.9%. Some distance behind this were Advanced clerical and service workers with 25.0%, and Managers and administrators (which recorded the highest sport volunteer rate) with 23.4%. At the other end of the scale, Intermediate production and transport workers had the lowest other volunteer rate with 11.8%. The next lowest rate was the 13.8% recorded by Tradespersons and related workers. Interestingly, the other volunteer rate for persons not employed (22.6%) was considerably higher than the rates recorded for a number of the occupation classes.

<b>Table 6 VOLUNTEERS, By type and occupation – 2002</b>				
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>NUMBER</b>				
Not employed (a)	331.6	1,181.6	3,713.5	5,226.8
Managers and administrators	171.9	204.3	495.4	871.6
Professionals	334.1	603.6	898.4	1,836.0
Associate professionals	210.4	251.9	700.8	1,163.1
Tradespersons and related workers	219.1	165.9	818.3	1,203.4
Advanced clerical and service workers	53.9	104.4	260.0	418.3
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	190.9	348.0	963.3	1,502.1
Intermediate production and transport workers	91.5	88.3	568.6	748.4
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	82.1	161.6	563.3	807.0
Labourers and related workers	71.2	122.6	532.8	726.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>
<b>PER CENT</b>				
Not employed (a)	6.3	22.6	71.0	100.0
Managers and administrators	19.7	23.4	56.8	100.0
Professionals	18.2	32.9	48.9	100.0
Associate professionals	18.1	21.7	60.3	100.0
Tradespersons and related workers	18.2	13.8	68.0	100.0
Advanced clerical and service workers	12.9	25.0	62.2	100.0
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	12.7	23.2	64.1	100.0
Intermediate production and transport workers	12.2	11.8	76.0	100.0
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	10.2	20.0	69.8	100.0
Labourers and related workers	9.8	16.9	73.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(a) Includes persons who were employed but for whom occupation not stated.				

## Participation in sport

Persons who participated in organised sporting activities during the 12-month reference period had a much higher sport volunteer rate than those who did not. At 25.6%, this rate far exceeded the corresponding rates for persons who participated only in non-organised activities (5.5%) and persons who were non-participants (5.7%).

The pattern was different for other volunteers. Persons participating only in non-organised sporting activities had the highest other volunteer rate at 27.1%, ahead of persons who participated in organised activities (22.5%) and persons who were non-participants (18.3%).

**Table 7** VOLUNTEERS, By type and sport participation status for the previous 12 months – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Participation status</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Participated in organised activities	1,207.9	1,062.2	2,443.1	4,713.3	25.6	22.5	51.8	100.0
Participated in non-organised activities only (a)	239.1	1,175.6	2,928.3	4,343.0	5.5	27.1	67.4	100.0
Did not participate	309.6	994.4	4,143.0	5,447.0	5.7	18.3	76.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes persons who did not know whether their participation was organised or non-organised.

## Participation in selected sporting activities

In table 8 the organised sporting activities are presented in descending order of the sport volunteer rates recorded for their participants. The activity with the highest sport volunteer rate was surf lifesaving with 67.1%. A high rate for this activity is to be expected because participation in surf lifesaving as a sport is only open to persons who are volunteer surf lifesavers. Indeed the overall volunteer rate for participants in surf lifesaving as a sport was 100%. However, it would seem that, while 67.1% of participants regarded their volunteering as being for a sport organisation, the remaining 32.9% saw surf lifesaving clubs as being primarily either emergency services or community welfare organisations.

Of the sporting activities which did not have volunteering as a prerequisite for organised participation, the highest sport volunteer rate was recorded for participants in outdoor hockey (45.6%). Other activities with sport volunteer rates in excess of 40% were motor sports (44.1%), Australian rules football (43.3%), outdoor cricket (41.3%) and fishing (40.6%).

The sport volunteer rate for Australian rules was substantially higher than for other football codes. Outdoor soccer had the next highest rate at 30.1%, still well clear of rugby union and rugby league at 23.0% and 18.5% respectively.

The sporting activity for which participants had the highest rate of other volunteering was rock climbing. At 71.5%, this rate was more than 50% higher than the next highest other volunteer rate which was the 46.7% recorded for aquarobics.

Apart from surf lifesaving, the highest overall volunteer rates were recorded for participants in rock climbing (81.7%) and sailing (68.8%).

**Table 8** VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ORGANISED SPORTING ACTIVITIES, By type and selected activities for the previous 12 months – 2002

Sporting activity (a)	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Surf lifesaving	*14.8	*7.3	–	22.1	*67.1	*32.9	–	100.0
Hockey (outdoor)	30.4	*12.9	23.5	66.8	45.6	*19.3	35.2	100.0
Motor sports	37.1	*12.3	34.6	84.0	44.1	*14.7	41.2	100.0
Australian rules football	106.6	*20.2	119.2	246.0	43.3	*8.2	48.5	100.0
Cricket (outdoor)	122.6	42.2	131.9	296.7	41.3	14.2	44.5	100.0
Fishing	93.9	40.0	97.3	231.2	40.6	17.3	42.1	100.0
Horse riding/ equestrian activities/polo	34.2	22.4	29.2	85.7	39.9	26.1	34.0	100.0
Billiards/ snooker/pool	*13.3	**3.7	*17.4	34.5	*38.7	**10.7	*50.6	100.0
Sailing	26.2	24.2	22.9	73.3	35.7	33.1	31.2	100.0
Canoeing/ kayaking	*12.8	*7.8	*15.4	35.9	*35.6	*21.6	*42.8	100.0
Softball	*15.5	*4.9	23.1	43.5	*35.6	*11.3	53.1	100.0
Darts	*13.6	*6.1	*18.7	38.4	*35.4	*15.9	*48.7	100.0
Lawn bowls	92.6	54.6	126.4	273.5	33.9	19.9	46.2	100.0
Tennis	216.3	147.5	297.9	661.8	32.7	22.3	45.0	100.0
Table tennis	*13.7	*9.9	*18.5	42.1	*32.5	*23.5	*43.9	100.0
Shooting sports	21.8	*4.7	41.0	67.5	32.3	*7.0	60.7	100.0
Basketball	78.5	45.0	131.6	255.1	30.8	17.7	51.6	100.0
Surf sports	57.9	30.9	100.6	189.4	30.6	16.3	53.1	100.0
Soccer (outdoor)	76.9	39.1	139.2	255.2	30.1	15.3	54.6	100.0
Golf	236.6	144.3	409.3	790.2	29.9	18.3	51.8	100.0
Touch football	67.5	47.0	112.3	226.8	29.7	20.7	49.5	100.0
Cycling	116.6	100.0	188.7	405.3	28.8	24.7	46.6	100.0
Squash/ racquetball	47.7	32.1	86.8	166.6	28.6	19.3	52.1	100.0
Running	109.6	90.8	190.5	390.9	28.0	23.2	48.7	100.0
Bush walking	63.6	74.5	90.1	228.2	27.9	32.7	39.5	100.0
Volleyball	39.7	33.1	70.9	143.6	27.6	23.0	49.3	100.0
Weight training	*17.7	*20.1	26.5	64.3	*27.5	*31.3	41.2	100.0
Badminton	*13.0	*16.4	*17.9	47.3	*27.5	*34.8	*37.8	100.0
Waterskiing/ powerboating	*20.1	*11.1	42.1	73.3	*27.5	*15.1	57.4	100.0



**Table 8** VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ORGANISED SPORTING ACTIVITIES, By type and selected activities for the previous 12 months – 2002 (continued)

Sporting activity (a)	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non- volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Cricket (indoor)	32.5	*11.7	75.3	119.5	27.2	*9.8	63.0	100.0
Ice/snow sports	*20.3	*19.8	37.0	77.1	*26.4	*25.7	47.9	100.0
Rowing	*6.5	*7.9	*10.5	24.8	*26.1	*31.6	*42.3	100.0
Baseball	*9.5	*6.9	*20.1	36.4	*25.9	*19.0	*55.0	100.0
Cross country running	*11.1	*14.9	*18.1	44.1	*25.2	*33.7	*41.1	100.0
Triathlons	*9.9	*7.6	22.3	39.8	*24.9	*19.1	56.0	100.0
Swimming	185.4	211.4	389.8	786.6	23.6	26.9	49.6	100.0
Netball	95.2	82.0	228.7	405.9	23.4	20.2	56.4	100.0
Rugby union	*20.7	*19.1	50.3	90.1	*23.0	*21.2	55.8	100.0
Soccer (indoor)	23.5	*14.5	72.2	110.2	21.3	*13.2	65.5	100.0
Walking for exercise	224.5	379.9	587.9	1192.4	18.8	31.9	49.3	100.0
Rugby league	*16.2	*12.8	58.6	87.7	*18.5	*14.6	66.9	100.0
Roller sports	*7.2	**4.4	27.9	39.5	*18.1	**11.2	70.7	100.0
Scuba diving	*6.5	*14.4	*15.1	36.1	*18.0	*40.1	*42.0	100.0
Martial arts	33.4	61.3	91.4	186.2	18.0	32.9	49.1	100.0
Aerobics/fitness	147.0	250.7	563.1	960.8	15.3	26.1	58.6	100.0
Tenpin bowling	*11.7	24.4	50.5	86.5	*13.5	28.2	58.3	100.0
Aquarobics	*5.3	19.3	*16.7	41.2	*12.8	46.7	*40.5	100.0
Dancing	26.2	61.7	125.7	213.6	12.3	28.9	58.9	100.0
Yoga	30.4	97.3	120.1	247.7	12.3	39.3	48.5	100.0
Boxing	**3.0	*5.3	*18.8	27.0	**10.9	*19.5	*69.5	100.0
Rock climbing	*5.4	37.7	*9.7	52.8	*10.2	71.5	*18.3	100.0
Carpet bowls	*5.4	25.8	43.9	75.1	*7.2	34.3	58.4	100.0
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>1,207.9</b>	<b>1,062.2</b>	<b>2,443.1</b>	<b>4,713.3</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

– nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) For reasons of statistical reliability, only sporting activities with greater than 22,000 participants have been included in this table.

(b) Includes volunteers who participated in sporting activities other than those selected for this table. The total is less than the sum, across all sporting activities, of the numbers of volunteers who participated. This is because some volunteers will have participated in multiple sporting activities.

## Attendance at sporting events

The sport volunteer rate of 19.3% for persons who had attended a sporting event during the 12-month reference period was much higher than the rate of 5.4% for those who had not. This effect was not seen with other volunteers. The other volunteer rate of 21.2% for sports attendees was actually a little lower than the rate of 23.3% for persons who did not attend any sporting events.

**Table 9** VOLUNTEERS, By type and sport attendance status for the previous 12 months – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Attendance status</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Attended sporting events	1,348.8	1,482.3	4,164.5	6,995.5	19.3	21.2	59.5	100.0
Did not attend sporting events	407.9	1,750.0	5,349.9	7,507.8	5.4	23.3	71.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Standard household type

At 13.1%, the sport volunteer rate for persons in One-family households was appreciably higher than the rate for any other household type. For other volunteers, the difference in volunteer rates between household types was less marked. Lone-person households had the highest rate at 22.7%, closely followed by One-family households with 22.4%. The rates for the other household types were not far behind.

**Table 10** VOLUNTEERS, By type and standard household type – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Household type</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
One family	1,545.2	2,649.2	7,610.3	11,804.8	13.1	22.4	64.5	100.0
Two or more families	*20.3	58.7	238.8	317.8	*6.4	18.5	75.2	100.0
Lone person	143.6	410.9	1,256.2	1,810.6	7.9	22.7	69.4	100.0
Group	47.5	113.5	409.1	570.1	8.3	19.9	71.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

## Family type

At 17.8%, the sport volunteer rate for persons in Couple families with dependent children was the highest of any family type, and almost double the rate for One-parent families with dependent children (9.0%). Couple families also had a higher sport volunteer rate than One-parent families for families with only non-dependent children (10.8% compared with 6.8%).

For both Couple families and One-parent families the sport volunteer rate was higher for families with dependent children than for families with only non-dependent children. This may be because the activities of dependent children have an influence on the sport volunteering of the adult members of their families.

A similar result was obtained from the 2000 VWS which found that: "People with children aged 5 to 14 years were more likely to be involved in a volunteer role in sport, compared with other volunteer roles. This is evident from the [sport volunteering] participation rates – 14% of people with children aged 5 to 14 years had some voluntary work involvement in sport, compared with just 7% of people with no children in this age group." Although it was not possible to analyse the full classification of Family type from the 2000 VWS, the data from this survey add further support to the hypothesis that the activities of dependent children have an influence on the sport volunteering of the adult members of their families.

Despite having the lowest sport volunteer rate (6.8%) of any family type, One-parent families with only non-dependent children also had the highest other volunteer rate (23.9%).

Other volunteer rates were little affected by family type, with all but one rate being in the range 21.4% to 23.9%. The exception was Couple families with only non-dependent children which had a volunteer rate of 17.3%.

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Family type</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
<b>Couple family with</b>								
Dependent children (a)	872.0	1,169.8	2,869.2	4,911.0	17.8	23.8	58.4	100.0
Non-dependent children only	156.1	248.3	1,034.9	1,439.3	10.8	17.3	71.9	100.0
No children	410.6	955.9	2,834.2	4,200.7	9.8	22.8	67.5	100.0
<b>One-parent family with</b>								
Dependent children (a)	67.0	159.6	520.7	747.3	9.0	21.4	69.7	100.0
Non-dependent children only	34.4	121.5	352.0	507.9	6.8	23.9	69.3	100.0
Other family or non-family household	216.6	577.1	1,903.4	2,697.1	8.0	21.4	70.6	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Children under 15 and/or dependent students 15 and over.

## Type of couple family

The data for the category, Couple family with dependent children, in table 11 can be further disaggregated as has been done in table 12. Table 12 shows that the sport volunteer rate for persons in families with children under 15 and dependent students (26.0%) was much higher than the corresponding rates for families with children under 15 but no dependent students (16.8%), and families with dependent students but no children under 15 (14.9%).

For other volunteers, however, there was little difference in the volunteer rates which ranged only from 22.8% (children under 15 and dependent students) to 24.7% (dependent students but no children under 15).

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Couple family with</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Children under 15, but no dependent students (a)	531.8	751.5	1,878.4	3,161.6	16.8	23.8	59.4	100.0
Dependent students, but no children under 15 (a)	153.5	254.7	622.4	1,030.7	14.9	24.7	60.4	100.0
Children under 15 and dependent students (a)	186.7	163.6	368.4	718.7	26.0	22.8	51.3	100.0
<b>Dependent children (b)</b>	<b>872.0</b>	<b>1,169.8</b>	<b>2,869.2</b>	<b>4,911.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(a) Dependent students are aged 15 and over.								
(b) Children under 15 and/or dependent students 15 and over.								

## Index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage

The index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage is based on the characteristics of all persons in a defined area – the collection district from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. The lower the value of this index, the greater is the average level of disadvantage experienced by residents of the area.

For both sport volunteers and other volunteers, the 2002 GSS found that the volunteer rate increased slightly with each successive quintile of the index. For sport volunteers the rate climbed from 9.8% for the lowest quintile to 13.9% for the highest, whereas for other volunteers the climb was from 19.5% for the lowest quintile to 26.8% for the highest. Therefore it appears that the greater their socioeconomic advantage, the more likely persons are to be volunteers, whether this be for sport or for other organisations.

The 2000 VWS found a similar result with respect to household annual income. Although not directly comparable with the index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage, income is a component of this index. The results of the 2000 VWS showed a marked difference in sport volunteer rates between the lowest income group (where 3% were sport volunteers) and the highest income groups (all three of which had sport volunteer rates between 10% and 12%). While the same pattern was found for other volunteers, with lower volunteer rates amongst lower income groups, the differences were not as marked as for sport volunteers.

**Table 13** VOLUNTEERS, By type and index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i>	<i>Other volunteers</i>	<i>Non-volunteers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Lowest quintile	246.5	488.8	1,775.4	2,510.7	9.8	19.5	70.7	100.0
Second quintile	296.5	558.4	1,827.1	2,682.1	11.1	20.8	68.1	100.0
Third quintile	383.0	652.7	2,078.5	3,114.2	12.3	21.0	66.7	100.0
Fourth quintile	386.2	676.0	1,941.3	3,003.4	12.9	22.5	64.6	100.0
Highest quintile	444.6	856.3	1,892.2	3,193.0	13.9	26.8	59.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Languages spoken at home

The sport volunteer rate for persons who spoke only English at home was 13.6% which was almost three times higher than the rate of 4.6% recorded for persons who spoke other languages at home.

For other volunteers, the corresponding difference in volunteer rates was less marked. The rate of 23.0% for persons who spoke only English at home was only approximately 25% more than the rate of 18.6% recorded for persons who spoke other languages at home.

**Table 14** VOLUNTEERS, By type and languages spoken at home – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>		<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	
'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%	
English only	1,650.3	2,800.3	7,727.6	12,178.2	13.6	23.0	63.5	100.0
Other languages	106.4	431.9	1,786.8	2,325.1	4.6	18.6	76.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Attendance at culture or leisure venues or events

The sport volunteer rate for persons who attended at least one culture or leisure venue or event during the 12 months prior to interview was 13.2% which was more than three times higher than the corresponding rate for non-attendees (4.2%). There was a similar level of disparity in the other volunteer rate. The rate for persons who had attended on at least one occasion was 23.8% which was more than twice the rate of 10.8% recorded for non-attendees.

A possible reason for these differences is simply that some people are more likely than others to be social participants across a range of activities, including both cultural and sporting activities, and all forms of volunteering. This in turn could be linked to higher socioeconomic status, given that we found earlier in this report that people with higher incomes or higher socioeconomic advantage were more likely to be volunteers, regardless of the activity.

Of all persons who attended culture or leisure venues or events, the highest rate of sport volunteering was the 18.0% achieved by those attending Musicals and operas. This was followed by 17.8% for persons attending Dance performances, and 17.0% both for patrons of Theatre performances and for patrons of Other performing arts. At 12.9%, persons attending Libraries had the lowest sport volunteer rate.

The venue or event for which attendees had the highest other volunteer rate was Classical music concerts with 39.6%, while the lowest rate was the 24.4% recorded for Cinema patrons. These categories also had the highest and lowest overall rates of volunteering at 53.3% and 38.5% respectively.

**Table 15** VOLUNTEERS, By type and attendance at selected culture or leisure venues or events for the previous 12 months – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>		<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	<i>volunteers</i>	
'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%	
Persons attending								
Art museums	528.0	1,190.6	1,888.0	3,606.6	14.6	33.0	52.3	100.0
Other museums	608.7	1,096.9	1,917.7	3,623.2	16.8	30.3	52.9	100.0
Zoological parks and aquaria	891.2	1,476.9	3,440.3	5,808.3	15.3	25.4	59.2	100.0
Botanic gardens	825.6	1,658.4	3,550.2	6,034.2	13.7	27.5	58.8	100.0
Libraries	785.7	1,765.7	3,558.9	6,110.2	12.9	28.9	58.2	100.0
Classical music concerts	178.3	513.8	606.8	1,298.9	13.7	39.6	46.7	100.0
Popular music concerts	612.8	990.6	2,230.2	3,833.6	16.0	25.8	58.2	100.0
Theatre performances	443.7	932.3	1,231.0	2,607.1	17.0	35.8	47.2	100.0
Dance performances	281.1	554.7	745.3	1,581.0	17.8	35.1	47.1	100.0
Musicals and operas	487.2	860.2	1,358.5	2,705.8	18.0	31.8	50.2	100.0
Other performing arts	502.2	905.7	1,547.9	2,955.7	17.0	30.6	52.4	100.0
Cinemas	1,428.8	2,470.4	6,238.5	10,137.7	14.1	24.4	61.5	100.0
<i>Total persons attending (a)</i>	<i>1,684.2</i>	<i>3,046.8</i>	<i>8,058.5</i>	<i>12,789.5</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>63.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Persons not attending	72.5	185.4	1,455.8	1,713.8	4.2	10.8	84.9	100.0
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Total persons attending is less than the sum (across all types of selected culture or leisure venues or events) of the numbers of persons who attended. This is because some persons will have attended multiple types of venues or events.

### Victims of crime

At 39.2%, the overall volunteer rate for persons who had been victims of physical or threatened violence during the 12 months prior to interview was significantly higher than the equivalent rate for the general population (34.4%). For males, the situation was similar with 39.7% of these victims volunteering, compared with 33.7% of the general male population.

The sport volunteer rate of 14.7% for persons who had been victims of physical or threatened violence was also significantly higher than the equivalent rate for the general population (12.1%).

It is likely, though, that the higher rates of volunteering by victims of violence occurred, not because these victims were more likely to volunteer, but because volunteers were more likely to be victims of violence. This can be seen more clearly in table 17.

**Table 16** VOLUNTEERS, By type, crime victim status, and sex – 2002

	NUMBER				PER CENT			
<i>Crime victim status</i>	<i>Sport volunteers</i> '000	<i>Other volunteers</i> '000	<i>Non-volunteers</i> '000	<i>Total</i> '000	<i>Sport volunteers</i> %	<i>Other volunteers</i> %	<i>Non-volunteers</i> %	<i>Total</i> %
<b>MALES</b>								
Victim of								
Physical or threatened violence	129.7	181.6	472.5	783.8	16.6	23.2	60.3	100.0
Actual or attempted break-in	119.5	163.8	559.2	842.4	14.2	19.4	66.4	100.0
Violence and/or break-in								
Victim	226.5	305.3	920.3	1,452.2	15.6	21.0	63.4	100.0
Not victim	857.8	1,025.7	3,840.9	5,724.4	15.0	17.9	67.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,084.3</b>	<b>1,331.0</b>	<b>4,761.2</b>	<b>7,176.5</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Victim of								
Physical or threatened violence	62.9	140.7	324.8	528.5	11.9	26.6	61.5	100.0
Actual or attempted break-in	69.7	226.6	523.7	820.0	8.5	27.6	63.9	100.0
Violence and/or break-in								
Victim	122.9	329.5	750.4	1,202.9	10.2	27.4	62.4	100.0
Not victim	549.5	1,571.7	4,002.7	6,123.9	9.0	25.7	65.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>672.4</b>	<b>1,901.3</b>	<b>4,753.1</b>	<b>7,326.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Victim of								
Physical or threatened violence	192.7	322.3	797.3	1,312.3	14.7	24.6	60.8	100.0
Actual or attempted break-in	189.1	390.4	1,082.8	1,662.3	11.4	23.5	65.1	100.0
Violence and/or break-in								
Victim	349.4	634.9	1,670.8	2,655.0	13.2	23.9	62.9	100.0
Not victim	1,407.3	2,597.4	7,843.6	11,848.3	11.9	21.9	66.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756.7</b>	<b>3,232.3</b>	<b>9,514.3</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>



That volunteers were more likely to be victims of violence is illustrated by the significant difference between 11.0% of sport volunteers being victims of physical or threatened violence during the 12 months prior to interview, compared with 9.0% of the general population. In addition, significantly higher percentages of both sport volunteers (11.0%) and other volunteers (10.0%) were victims of violence when compared with non-volunteers (8.4%).

**Table 17** VICTIMS OF CRIME, By type of crime, volunteer status, and sex – 2002

	VICTIM OF		VIOLENCE AND/OR BREAK-IN		Total	'000
	<i>Physical or threatened violence</i>	<i>Actual or attempted break-in</i>	<i>Victim</i>	<i>Not victim</i>		
<i>Volunteer status</i>	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>MALES</b>						
Sport volunteers	12.0	11.0	20.9	79.1	100.0	1,084.3
Other volunteers	13.6	12.3	22.9	77.1	100.0	1,331.0
Non-volunteers	9.9	11.7	19.3	80.7	100.0	4,761.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>79.8</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>7,176.5</i>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Sport volunteers	9.4	10.4	18.3	81.7	100.0	672.4
Other volunteers	7.4	11.9	17.3	82.7	100.0	1,901.3
Non-volunteers	6.8	11.0	15.8	84.2	100.0	4,753.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>7,326.8</i>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Sport volunteers	11.0	10.8	19.9	80.1	100.0	1,756.7
Other volunteers	10.0	12.1	19.6	80.4	100.0	3,232.3
Non-volunteers	8.4	11.4	17.6	82.4	100.0	9,514.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,503.3</b>

## Summary

Volunteering for an organisation or group involved in sport, recreation or a hobby (sport volunteering) is clearly dominated by males, with the sport volunteer rate for males being almost two thirds higher than that for females. Persons aged from 35 to 49 had higher rates of sport volunteering than did either younger or older persons. This could be because persons in this age range are more likely to have dependent children of a sport-playing age, and their sport volunteering is influenced by the activities of their children.

Geographically, the highest sport volunteer rates were recorded by the Northern Territory (17.9%) and Australian Capital Territory (15.4%) while New South Wales (11.7%) and Victoria (11.3%) had the lowest rates. However, for all six states the sport volunteer rate was lower for the capital city than it was for the balance of the state. This was particularly noticeable for Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia where the rate for the balance of the state was approximately double that for the capital city. Looking at

Australia as a whole, the sport volunteer rate was much higher in the remote regions (23.9%) than it was in the major cities (9.9%). In contrast, regional and state differences in the other volunteer rate were generally much less marked. Higher levels of the sport volunteer rate away from the capital cities may be an indication of the importance of sport to rural and remote communities.

At 15.4%, the sport volunteer rate for employed persons was much higher than for either the unemployed or for persons not in the labour force (6.5% and 6.3% respectively). However, there was little variation among the corresponding rates for other volunteers, with all three rates being around the 22% mark. The occupation groups with higher rates of sport volunteering (over 18%) were Managers and administrators, Professionals, Associate professionals, and Tradespersons and related workers.

Perhaps not surprisingly, persons who (during the previous twelve months) had either participated in organised sporting activities or attended sporting events, were much more likely to have been sport volunteers. Compared with the overall sport volunteer rate for Australia of 12.1%, the rate for organised sport participants was 25.6%, and for sporting event attendees was 19.3%.

Besides surf lifesaving (for which participation as a sport is limited to volunteer surf lifesavers), the sports for which participants achieved the highest sport volunteer rates were outdoor hockey (45.6%) and motor sports (44.1%). At 43.3% the sport volunteer rate for participants in Australian rules football was substantially higher than for other football codes.

Persons who were part of Couple families with dependent children were more likely to have been sport volunteers than persons who were part of other family types. This could support the hypothesis that people volunteer for sport organisations because of their children's involvement with those organisations.

As the index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage increases, the average household becomes less disadvantaged. However, the likelihood of householders being volunteers only increases gradually. For both sport volunteers and other volunteers, the volunteer rate increased only slightly with each successive quintile of the index.

The sport volunteer rate for persons who attended at least one culture or leisure venue or event during the 12 months prior to interview was more than three times higher than it was for non-attendees, while the other volunteer rate was more than twice as high as it was for non-attendees. It has been hypothesised that some people have generally higher levels of social participation, be they in volunteer activities, or in culture or leisure activities. This may be related to socioeconomic advantage. Multivariate analysis would be required to test this hypothesis, and it should be regarded as only a speculative finding from the descriptive analysis presented in this paper.

Both sport volunteers and other volunteers were more likely to be victims of violence than were non-volunteers. The 2002 GSS found that 11.0% of sport volunteers had been victims of physical or threatened violence during the 12 months prior to interview. There have been many anecdotal reports from sporting clubs about violence directed to sport volunteers, to the extent that government programs have been put in place to address the issue. This finding supports the need for such programs.

The preceding commentary on data from the 2002 GSS is based on a descriptive statistical analysis of various selected social and demographic characteristics of persons who either volunteered for organisations or groups involved in sport, recreation or a hobby; or volunteered for organisations or groups involved in other fields or activities. To more fully describe any association between these characteristics and volunteering would require the development of a multivariate model.

# APPENDIX

## Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure

ARIA Score by 2001 Census Collection District

