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# **VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT**

AUSTRALIA

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

# NOTES

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents summary data on sport and physical recreation volunteers from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS). The detailed results cover information about the characteristics of people volunteering for sport and physical recreation organisations, other organisations and non-volunteers. People volunteering for sport and physical recreation organisations have been split into two categories which includes volunteering for sport and physical recreation organisations only, and sport and physical recreation together with other organisation(s).

The publication provides detailed analysis of the characteristics of volunteers in sport and physical recreation as well as two data cubes – the first presenting data for Australia, and the second presenting data for each of the states and territories.

Data on all volunteers from the 2006 GSS was published in *Voluntary Work, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4441.0).

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The General Social Survey (GSS) collected information about personal and household characteristics for people aged 18 and over resident in private dwellings, throughout non-remote areas of Australia, from March to July 2006.

Explanatory Notes on the 2006 GSS can be found in *General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4159.0). These Explanatory Notes contain information on the scope of the survey, sample design, data collection, weighting and reliability of estimates. The publication also includes a Technical Note that provides information on data reliability.

## ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.



## ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
GSS	General Social Survey
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

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## VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT

This report analyses data from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS) and provides a detailed analysis of the characteristics of volunteers in sport and physical recreation.

Volunteers are people who freely choose to give their time to organisations or groups in the community for no monetary reward (ABS 2007a). The activities they undertake can include assisting an organisation to run more smoothly (e.g. performing administration and fundraising tasks), providing information and advice (including counselling, teaching and coaching) as well as providing practical assistance to other people, such as serving food and helping with gardening and transportation. Sport benefits significantly from the input of volunteers, with sports organisations relying heavily on volunteers to provide services for their members. According to NSW Sport and Recreation (2008), sport volunteers are the key to the success and long term sustainability of sports clubs, sport organisations and sport events. They also recognise that without this contribution, many sports organisations or individual clubs could not exist.

Voluntary work also helps to develop and reinforce social networks and cohesion within communities (Department of Sport and Recreation, Western Australia 2006).

Volunteering has been seen to be particularly important in regional areas as it provides and sustains community interaction (Kemp 2006).

The 2006 GSS collected a range of information relevant to volunteers and sport. Information about the number of volunteers, their characteristics and motives for volunteering were collected together with a range of other information relating to community involvement, as well as involvement in sport and physical recreation.

A volunteer in this survey was defined as someone who, in the previous 12 months, willingly gave unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group. Individuals who provided unpaid labour as part of work experience, study or mutual obligation were excluded. Summary information from the survey is published in *Voluntary Work, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4441.0).

Information in this report is presented in several sections:

- Background (including previous reports, data sources);
- Selected characteristics of volunteers, including age, sex and birthplace;
- Volunteering experience, including the frequency and duration of volunteer work, the tasks undertaken and the reasons for being a volunteer; and
- Volunteers and the community which includes indicators of volunteers engaged in their community. For example, other community activities undertaken, feelings of safety and levels of trust in other community members.

People who volunteer may be involved with more than one organisation and more than one type of organisation. Consequently, the data are presented to describe the characteristics of those who:

VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT  
*continued*

- (a) volunteer only for sport and physical recreation organisation(s);
- (b) volunteer for sport and physical recreation and other types of organisation(s); and
- (c) volunteer only for organisation(s) other than sport and physical recreation.

Additional data to complement this report is available separately as data cubes as part of this publication. Note that all data in the tables and graphs presented in this report are from the General Social Survey 2006 unless otherwise indicated.

## SECTION 2

## BACKGROUND

### PREVIOUS REPORTS

Previous reports, *Australia's Sports Volunteers, 2000* and *Sport Volunteers and Other Volunteers: Some data from the 2002 General Social Survey* on volunteers were prepared by the ABS in 2002 and 2005 using data collected in the 2000 ABS Voluntary Work Survey and the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS) respectively. These are available at <[http://fulltext.ausport.gov.au/fulltext/2003/scors/Volunteers\\_2000.asp](http://fulltext.ausport.gov.au/fulltext/2003/scors/Volunteers_2000.asp)> and <[http://www.ausport.gov.au/information/scors/other\\_related\\_reports](http://www.ausport.gov.au/information/scors/other_related_reports)> or on request from the National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics on Adelaide (08) 8237 7602.

The 2005 report included a brief review of the literature on the motives for volunteering and the strategies that organisations use to retain volunteers. These are summarised in the *Volunteer Management Program – A guide to good practice* (Australian Sports Commission 2000).

### DATA SOURCES

#### *The General Social Survey*

Both the 2002 and 2006 GSS sought information on the type of organisations for which a person volunteered. The organisations were classified into thirteen broad categories with 'Sport and Physical Recreation' being a defined category in the 2006 survey. However, the 2002 survey used a broader definition of recreation and included hobby groups and clubs in the category of organisation type. These groups were separately identified in the 2006 survey. Consequently, it is not possible to directly compare volunteer numbers and rates for sport and physical recreation organisations in 2002 and 2006. Differences in the data are shown below.

### **2.1** GSS 2002 AND 2006, By volunteers and type of organisation

	2002		2006	
	Volunteers ('000)	Volunteer rate (%)	Volunteers ('000)	Volunteer rate (%)
Sport and physical recreation/hobbies	1 756.7	12.1	1 878.3	12.3
Sport and physical recreation	na	na	1 712.8	11.2

na not available

The full list of data items collected in the surveys are included in the *General Social Survey User Guide* (cat. no. 4159.0.55.002).

#### *Survey of Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities*

Information relating to volunteers for organised sport has also been collected previously in the Survey of Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities and published in *Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity* (cat. no. 6285.0). This supplementary survey was last conducted throughout Australia in April 2007 as part of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey sought information on paid and

*Survey of Work in Selected  
Culture and Leisure  
Activities continued*

unpaid involvement in organised sport and physical activities and the role(s) that are undertaken – coach, referee, club administrator etc. It did not specifically use the term 'volunteer', however, information on unpaid involvement can be used as a measure of voluntary work.

The results of the 2006 Survey of Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities indicate that 1.6 million or 9.9% of the population aged 15 years and over were involved in one or more non-playing roles associated with organised sport. It also found that the majority of these (83.6% or 1.4 million) were involved in an unpaid capacity.

**2.2** INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANISED SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY,  
By persons with non-playing involvement

	1997	2001	2004	2007
PERSONS ('000)				
Unpaid only	1 410.3	1 186.7	1 250.1	1 355.5
Some paid involvement	245.6	233.5	247.4	265.9
Total	1 655.9	1 420.2	1 497.5	1 621.4
(%)				
Participation rate(a)	11.5	9.5	9.6	9.9

(a) The number of persons involved in non-playing roles, expressed as a percentage of the population in the same group.

Source: Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia, Apr 2007 (cat. no. 6285.0)

The GSS and the Survey of Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities were conducted using different methodologies. The GSS collected information from persons aged 18 years and over whereas the Survey of Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities collected information from persons aged 15 years and over.

These differences in methodology, the scope of the surveys, the definitions of volunteers and of sport and physical recreation organisations are such that the data from the different surveys cannot be compared. Consequently, this report includes information only from the 2006 GSS.

INTERPRETING THE DATA  
IN THIS REPORT

The common denominator in the tables is 'persons volunteered in the previous 12 months'. There are two ways to analyse and interpret the data – by looking at the volunteer rates according to the characteristics of the volunteers and by looking at the differences in the characteristics according to the activity of the volunteers.

For example, in Table 3.2 (Section 3 – Characteristics of Volunteers) the data indicate that 36% (2.8 million) of the female population aged 18 years and over was volunteering compared with 32% (2.4 million) of comparable males. Of the 5.2 million volunteers, 54% were female.

Within this report a sport and physical recreation volunteer is a person who volunteered for at least one sport and physical recreation organisation. They may also have volunteered for other organisations. Other or non-sport volunteer is a person who volunteered for organisations other than sport and physical recreation.



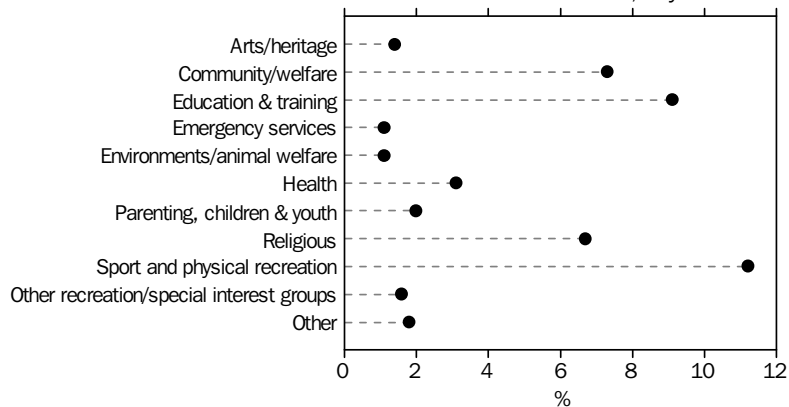
SECTION **3**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF VOLUNTEERS** .....

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

The General Social Survey (GSS) found that over 5.2 million people or 34% of the adult population aged 18 years and over participated in voluntary work in 2006. Sport and physical recreation organisations attracted the largest number of volunteers with 1.7 million people (11% of the population) followed by Education and training organisations or groups (1.4 million or 9.1%) and Community and welfare organisations (1.1 million or 7.3%).

**3.1** TYPE OF ORGANISATION VOLUNTEERED FOR, By all volunteers



Source: Voluntary Work, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4441.0)

Of the 5.2 million volunteers, 3.3 million (62%) volunteered for just one organisation with a further 1.3 million people (25%) volunteering for two organisations. Of the 1.7 million sport and physical recreation volunteers, close to 745,000, or 44%, volunteered for another type of organisation in addition to a sport and physical recreation organisation.

SEX AND AGE

There were some differences in the rates of volunteering for all organisations among males and females and different age groups. There was a greater proportion of females involved in volunteering as a whole (36% of females were volunteers compared with 32% of males) while 54% of all volunteers were female.

Males were more likely than females to volunteer only for organisations related to sport and physical recreation (8.9% and 3.8% respectively) and for all sport and physical recreation organisations (14% of males compared with 8.7% of females). The majority of male volunteers, (61%) volunteered for sport and physical recreation organisations.

In comparison, females were more likely to volunteer only for other organisations with 28% (2.1 million) of the female population volunteering. Of the 3.5 million people who volunteered for other organisations only, 61% were females.

SEX AND AGE *continued*

People aged 35-44 years were more likely to volunteer for any type of organisation than other age groups, with 43% of those in this age group being volunteers. The volunteer rate for females in this same age group was 48% compared with 37% for males. This age group includes parents with dependent children. The higher volunteer rate for those in this age group may reflect volunteering connected to their children.

There was a similar pattern for sport volunteers with greater proportions of those aged 35-44 years (17%) and 45-54 years (15%) volunteering for sport and physical recreation organisations than other age groups. In addition to their personal involvement in sport and physical recreation, people in these age ranges often have dependent children of sport-playing age and consequently volunteer to support their activities.

### 3.2 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By age and sex

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>	<i>Not a volunteer</i>	<i>Total Persons aged 18 years &amp; over</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)							
Male	672.9	366.9	1 039.9	1 365.3	2 405.2	5 148.1	7 553.3
Female	294.8	378.1	672.9	2 148.4	2 821.3	4 932.5	7 753.8
VOLUNTEER RATE (%)							
Male	8.9	4.9	13.8	18.1	31.8	68.2	100.0
Female	3.8	4.9	8.7	27.7	36.4	63.6	100.0
VOLUNTEERS ('000)							
18-24 years	147.5	62.8	210.3	364.0	574.3	1 365.8	1 940.1
25-34 years	167.9	112.7	280.6	578.3	858.9	1 950.3	2 809.2
35-44 years	241.0	269.4	510.4	764.7	1 275.1	1 713.2	2 988.3
45-54 years	251.9	172.4	424.2	677.4	1 101.6	1 698.6	2 800.2
55-64 years	90.5	79.1	169.6	556.8	726.4	1 512.9	2 239.3
65 years & over	68.9	48.7	117.6	572.8	690.4	1 839.5	2 529.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>	<b>10 080.6</b>	<b>15 307.1</b>
VOLUNTEER RATE (%)							
18-24 years	7.6	3.2	10.8	18.8	29.6	70.4	100.0
25-34 years	6.0	4.0	10.0	20.6	30.6	69.4	100.0
35-44 years	8.1	9.0	17.1	25.6	42.7	57.3	100.0
45-54 years	9.0	6.2	15.1	24.2	39.3	60.7	100.0
55-64 years	4.0	3.5	7.6	24.9	32.4	67.6	100.0
65 years & over	2.7	1.9	4.6	22.6	27.3	72.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD  
TYPE

Families consisting of a couple with children aged under 15 are the most common source of all volunteers (1.8 million or 35% of all volunteers). This is followed by families consisting of a couple only who contributed a further 1.4 million or 27% of all volunteers.

Persons who were part of couple families with dependents also had greater proportions (both with children under 15 and dependent students) of volunteering for sport and physical recreation organisations than persons who were part of other family types. Of the 1.7 million sport and physical recreation volunteers more than half (887,400 or 52%) of the volunteers came from couple families with dependents. This was followed by 23% (397,500) of sport and physical recreation volunteers living in a couple only household.

In contrast, couple families with dependents provided smaller proportions of volunteers for other organisations only, however these organisations were still the primary source for their volunteers. Families with children under aged 15 years and couple only families provided 32% and 29% respectively, with these family types accounting for 1.1 million and 1.8 million volunteers respectively.

The third main household type of persons living alone (13% of the population), had an overall volunteering rate of 27% and represented 10% of all volunteers. While this household type contributed 7.1% (122,000) of the 1.7 million sport and physical recreation volunteers and 12% (402,800) of the other volunteers, they were over three times as likely to be a volunteer for non-sport organisations – 21% volunteered for other organisations only compared with 6.3% who volunteered for sport and physical recreation organisations.

### 3.3 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By family and household type

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Couple family with children aged under 15	308.9	388.6	697.5	1 117.5	1 815.0
Couple family with dependent students	113.2	76.7	189.9	212.9	402.8
Couple family with non-dependents	78.7	*43.9	122.5	268.4	390.9
Couple only family	277.7	119.8	397.5	1 028.6	1 426.1
One parent family with children aged under 15	*21.2	46.7	67.9	144.6	212.5
One parent family with dependent students	*8.6	*4.9	*13.6	45.7	59.3
One parent family with non-dependents	*25.4	**3.4	*28.7	101.0	129.7
Other family(a)	**9.7	**0.2	**9.9	*35.1	*45.0
<i>Total family households</i>	<i>843.3</i>	<i>684.2</i>	<i>1 527.5</i>	<i>2 953.8</i>	<i>4 481.3</i>
Lone person household	78.9	43.1	122.0	402.8	524.8
Other households(b)	45.5	17.7	63.3	157.2	220.5
<i>Total other households</i>	<i>124.4</i>	<i>60.8</i>	<i>185.3</i>	<i>560.0</i>	<i>745.3</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>

	VOLUNTEERS (%)				
Couple family with children aged under 15	31.9	52.2	40.7	31.8	34.7
Couple family with dependent students	11.7	10.3	11.1	6.1	7.7
Couple family with non-dependents	8.1	*5.9	7.2	7.6	7.5
Couple only family	28.7	16.1	23.2	29.3	27.3
One parent family with children aged under 15	*2.2	6.3	4.0	4.1	4.1
One parent family with dependent students	*0.9	*0.7	*0.8	1.3	1.1
One parent family with non-dependents	*2.6	**0.5	*1.7	2.9	2.5
Other family(a)	**1.0	**—	**0.6	*1.0	*0.9
<i>Total family households</i>	<i>87.1</i>	<i>91.8</i>	<i>89.2</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>85.7</i>
Lone person household	8.2	5.8	7.1	11.5	10.0
Other households(b)	4.7	2.4	3.7	4.5	4.2
<i>Total other households</i>	<i>12.9</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>14.3</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	VOLUNTEER RATE (%)				
Couple family with children aged under 15	7.9	7.4	17.8	28.5	46.4
Couple family with dependent students	10.9	2.8	18.2	20.4	38.7
Couple family with non-dependents	5.0	*2.8	7.8	17.1	24.9
Couple only family	6.0	2.6	8.7	22.4	31.0
One parent family with children aged under 15	*3.8	8.3	12.1	25.8	37.9
One parent family with dependent students	*4.3	*2.5	*6.8	23.0	29.8
One parent family with non-dependents	*4.5	**0.6	*5.1	17.8	22.8
Other family(a)	**5.2	**0.1	**5.3	*18.9	*24.2
<i>Total family households</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>23.4</i>	<i>35.5</i>
Lone person household	4.1	2.2	6.3	20.7	27.0
Other households(b)	6.2	2.4	8.6	21.5	30.1
<i>Total other households</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>27.9</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>

## STATE AND TERRITORY

There were some differences in the rates of volunteering in the states and territories. The highest rates of volunteering for all organisations were reported in the Australian Capital Territory and in Queensland with 38% of each of their adult population volunteering. South Australia had the lowest volunteer rate at 31%. The Northern Territory had the highest rate of volunteering for sport and physical recreation organisations (15%) followed by Western Australia with 14%. The lowest sport and physical recreation volunteer rate was recorded by the state with largest population, New South Wales with 9.5%.

For other organisations only, the highest rate of volunteering was reported in the Australian Capital Territory (27%) followed by Queensland (26%). Victoria recorded the lowest volunteer rate, 21%, for other organisations only.

Volunteering was more common among those living in parts of the state outside of the capital city. The overall volunteer rate for capital cities was 32% compared with 38% for regions outside the capital cities. This was also the case for sport and physical recreation organisations where the volunteer rate was 14% outside capital cities compared with 9.5% for capital cities. Higher levels of sport and physical recreation volunteer rates for regions outside the capital cities may be an indication of the importance of sport to rural and remote communities. Across all regions of Australia, the highest rates of volunteering in sport and physical recreation organisations were recorded in regional areas of Western Australia and Victoria (19%).

The difference in sport and physical recreation volunteer rates between the capital city and the balance of the state was most pronounced in Victoria where the rate for the balance of the state was approximately double the rate for the capital city (19% compared with 9.1%). South Australia was the only state or territory where the rates for the capital city and the balance of the state were similar (10% and 11% respectively).

### 3.4 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS(a), By state and territory and capital city/balance of state

	TOTAL SPORT & PHYSICAL RECREATION ORGANISATION(S)			OTHER ORGANISATIONS ONLY			TOTAL VOLUNTEERS		
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Balance of state</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Balance of state</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Balance of state</i>	<i>Total</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)									
New South Wales	264.4	224.8	489.2	711.6	475.3	1 186.9	976.0	700.1	1 676.1
Victoria	256.2	193.2	449.4	575.5	233.4	808.8	831.7	426.6	1 258.2
Queens land	139.6	222.3	361.9	377.6	378.8	756.5	517.2	601.1	1 118.4
South Australia	88.5	31.4	119.9	178.3	69.3	247.7	266.8	100.7	367.6
Western Australia	143.4	63.9	207.4	266.7	67.7	334.4	410.1	131.6	541.8
Tasmania	15.9	25.4	41.3	36.8	52.8	89.6	52.7	78.2	130.9
Northern Territory(b)	11.3	4.9	16.2	16.9	6.2	23.1	28.2	11.1	39.3
Australian Capital Territory(c)	27.5	—	27.5	66.8	—	66.8	94.3	—	94.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>946.8</b>	<b>765.9</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>2 230.3</b>	<b>1 283.5</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>3 177.1</b>	<b>2 049.4</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEER RATE (%)									
New South Wales	8.2	11.9	9.5	21.9	25.3	23.2	30.1	37.2	32.7
Victoria	9.1	18.6	11.7	20.5	22.5	21.0	29.6	41.1	32.7
Queensland	10.2	14.0	12.2	27.6	23.9	25.6	37.8	37.9	37.8
South Australia	10.1	10.7	10.2	20.3	23.6	21.2	30.4	34.3	31.4
Western Australia	12.5	18.7	13.9	23.2	19.8	22.4	35.7	38.5	36.4
Tasmania	10.3	12.1	11.4	23.9	25.3	24.7	34.2	37.4	36.0
Northern Territory(b)	14.4	15.7	14.8	21.6	19.8	21.1	36.0	35.5	35.8
Australian Capital Territory(c)	11.2	—	11.2	27.2	—	27.2	38.4	—	38.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>34.1</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Data on sport and physical recreation organisation(s) only and sport and physical recreation and other organisation(s) have been split in the datacubes.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 8 of Explanatory Notes in Voluntary Work, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4441.0).

(c) Australian Capital Territory refers to 'capital city' only.

## LABOUR FORCE STATUS

Labour force status may be related to the likelihood of volunteering in that one might expect that employment in paid work may limit the time available for voluntary work. However, the GSS data does not support this.

The volunteer rate for all sport and physical recreation organisations for employed people (14%) was more than double the rate for the unemployed (5.7%) and those not in the labour force (5.6%). People employed full-time had a volunteer rate in these organisations of 15% which was slightly higher than the rate of those employed part-time (13%).

Of the population aged 18 years and over, 23% (2.3 million) of employed people volunteered for other organisations only compared with 14% (1.4 million) who volunteered for sport and physical recreation organisations. A similar pattern existed for people who were unemployed or not in the labour force.

There were also some differences in the rates of volunteering according to labour force status when sex was taken into account. Overall, employed females were more likely to volunteer for other organisations only than employed males (28% and 18% respectively). However, the sport and physical recreation volunteer rate for males employed full-time (17%) was greater than the rate for males employed part-time (11%). Conversely, females employed full-time had a sport and physical recreation volunteer rate of 10% compared with 14% by those employed part-time.

**3.5** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By labour force status

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
<b>Male</b>					
Employed	572.2	318.1	890.3	1 015.4	1 905.7
Employed full-time	515.8	289.3	805.1	827.9	1 633.0
Employed part-time	56.4	*28.8	85.2	187.5	272.7
Unemployed	**10.9	**4.6	*15.4	30.2	45.6
Not in the labour force	89.9	*44.2	134.1	319.8	453.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>672.9</b>	<b>366.9</b>	<b>1 039.9</b>	<b>1 365.3</b>	<b>2 405.2</b>
<b>Female</b>					
Employed	237.1	289.5	526.7	1 240.4	1 767.1
Employed full-time	133.7	109.9	243.6	543.0	786.6
Employed part-time	103.4	179.6	283.1	697.4	980.5
Unemployed	**7.4	**4.2	*11.6	67.4	79.0
Not in the labour force	50.3	84.4	134.7	840.6	975.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>294.8</b>	<b>378.1</b>	<b>672.9</b>	<b>2 148.4</b>	<b>2 821.3</b>
<b>Persons</b>					
Employed	809.4	607.6	1 417.0	2 255.8	3 672.8
Employed full-time	649.5	399.2	1 048.7	1 370.9	2 419.6
Employed part-time	159.8	208.5	368.3	884.9	1 253.2
Unemployed	*18.2	*8.8	27.0	97.6	124.6
Not in the labour force	140.1	128.7	268.8	1 160.3	1 429.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEER RATE (%)					
<b>Male</b>					
Employed	10.3	5.7	16.1	18.3	34.4
Employed full-time	10.8	6.1	16.9	17.4	34.3
Employed part-time	7.2	*3.7	10.9	24.1	35.0
Unemployed	**4.4	**1.9	*6.2	12.2	18.5
Not in the labour force	5.1	*2.5	7.6	18.1	25.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>31.8</b>
<b>Female</b>					
Employed	5.3	6.5	11.7	27.7	39.4
Employed full-time	5.6	4.6	10.1	22.6	32.8
Employed part-time	5.0	8.6	13.6	33.5	47.0
Unemployed	**3.3	**1.9	*5.1	29.9	35.0
Not in the labour force	1.7	2.8	4.4	27.6	32.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>36.4</b>
<b>Persons</b>					
Employed	8.1	6.1	14.1	22.5	36.6
Employed full-time	9.1	5.6	14.6	19.1	33.8
Employed part-time	5.6	7.3	12.9	30.9	43.8
Unemployed	*3.9	*1.9	5.7	20.7	26.4
Not in the labour force	2.9	2.7	5.6	24.1	29.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>

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

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



SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
DISADVANTAGE

The index of relative socio-economic disadvantage is one of five Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) compiled by the ABS following each population census. This index includes attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. The index is based on the characteristics of all persons in a defined area (the collection district from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing) and not the socio-economic situation of a particular individual. The lower the value of this index, the greater is the level of disadvantage experienced by residents of the area.

**3.6** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS,  
By socio-economic disadvantage

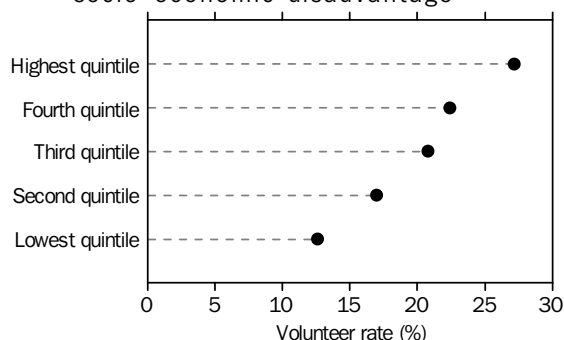
	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Lowest quintile	139.3	76.0	215.3	468.1	683.4
Second quintile	184.2	106.4	290.6	599.7	890.3
Third quintile(a)	217.6	138.7	356.3	711.5	1 057.7
Fourth quintile	195.8	188.5	384.3	793.1	1 177.4
Highest quintile	230.9	235.4	466.3	951.5	1 417.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEER RATE (%)					
Lowest quintile	5.4	3.0	8.4	18.3	26.7
Second quintile	6.6	3.8	10.4	21.6	32.0
Third quintile(a)	6.6	4.2	10.7	21.4	31.8
Fourth quintile	6.2	6.0	12.2	25.2	37.4
Highest quintile	6.6	6.7	13.4	27.2	40.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>

(a) Includes responses not available.

There appears to be an association between the incidence of volunteering and the level of disadvantage in that the rate of volunteering increased with each successive quintile – from 27% for those in the lowest quintile to 41% for those in the highest quintile. For sport and physical recreation volunteers the rate rose from 8.4% for the lowest quintile to 13% for the highest and for volunteers for other organisations only the rate increased from 18% for the lowest quintile to 27% for the highest. This pattern suggests that the greater the level of socio-economic advantage, the more likely persons are to be volunteers, whether this be for sport or for other organisations.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
DISADVANTAGE  
*continued*

**3.7** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION VOLUNTEERS, By socio-economic disadvantage



BIRTHPLACE

Of the population aged 18 years and over, 36% of people born in Australia undertook voluntary work compared with those born elsewhere (29%). Those born in the Main English Speaking Countries had a higher rate of volunteering (34%) than those born in other countries (26%).

Those born in Australia were also more likely to be sport and physical recreation volunteers with 13% (1.4 million) volunteering, compared with 6.1% (264,300) for people born outside Australia.

In contrast, people born in Australia and overseas were equally likely to volunteer for other organisations only with 23% of each group volunteering.

**3.8** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By country of birth

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
<b>Birthplace</b>					
Australia	810.4	638.0	1 448.5	2 532.0	3 980.5
Main English Speaking Countries(a)	79.7	77.7	157.5	385.2	542.7
Other	*77.5	29.3	106.8	596.6	703.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEER RATE (%)					
<b>Birthplace</b>					
Australia	7.4	5.8	13.2	23.0	36.2
Main English Speaking Countries(a)	5.0	4.9	9.9	24.2	34.1
Other	*2.9	1.1	3.9	22.0	25.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>

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

(a) Includes Canada, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

SECTION **4**

**THE VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE** .....

This section includes information about the experience of being a volunteer – the frequency of voluntary work, the hours volunteered in the previous twelve months, how long people have been a volunteer and the types of work that they undertake as a volunteer. Information on how people first became involved and the multiple reasons for volunteering are also presented and discussed.

FREQUENCY AND HOURS  
OF VOLUNTEERING

Nearly half of all volunteers (2.5 million or 49%) volunteered at least once a week. Almost 58% (989,000) of all sport and physical recreation volunteers volunteered on at least a weekly basis. This may be related to the regular nature of sporting activities. In comparison, a lower proportion of those working for other organisations only volunteered at least weekly (1.6 million or 44%). The second most common frequency for those volunteering for other organisations only is at least once a month (1 million or 28%).

One quarter of all volunteers (1.3 million or 25%) did so for a total of twenty or fewer hours in the previous twelve months. This was particularly the case for volunteers for other organisations only where 28% volunteered for a total of 20 hours or less in the previous twelve months.

Sport and physical recreation volunteers contributed proportionally more hours, with one third (559,000) contributing 140 hours or more of their time in the previous 12 months compared with just over a quarter (26% or 926,500) of volunteers for other organisations only.

#### 4.1 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By frequency and hours of volunteering

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
<i>Frequency of volunteering(a)</i>					
At least once a week	537.8	451.2	989.0	1 559.0	2 548.0
At least once a fortnight	131.3	72.9	204.2	595.4	799.6
At least once a month	129.1	84.5	213.7	993.2	1 206.9
Several times a year	143.3	106.3	249.7	937.4	1 187.1
Less regularly	93.4	61.5	154.9	843.5	998.4
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
<i>Total hours volunteered(c)(d)</i>					
Less than 20 hours	260.4	49.7	310.1	998.9	1 309.0
20–39 hours	134.6	91.9	226.5	527.6	754.1
40–79 hours	167.4	134.3	301.7	617.1	918.8
80–139 hours	171.5	144.0	315.5	443.6	759.1
140–299 hours	153.4	181.5	334.9	534.1	869.0
300 hours or more	80.5	143.6	224.1	392.4	616.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>

	VOLUNTEERS (%)				
<i>Frequency of volunteering(a)</i>					
At least once a week	55.6	60.6	57.7	44.4	48.8
At least once a fortnight	13.6	9.8	11.9	16.9	15.3
At least once a month	13.3	11.3	12.5	28.3	23.1
Several times a year	14.8	14.3	14.6	26.7	22.7
Less regularly	9.7	8.3	9.0	24.0	19.1
<i>Total hours volunteered(c)(d)</i>					
Less than 20 hours	26.9	6.7	18.1	28.4	25.0
20–39 hours	13.9	12.3	13.2	15.0	14.4
40–79 hours	17.3	18.0	17.6	17.6	17.6
80–139 hours	17.7	19.3	18.4	12.6	14.5
140–299 hours	15.9	24.4	19.6	15.2	16.6
300 hours or more	8.3	19.3	13.1	11.2	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Frequency of volunteering in all organisations in each organisation type.

(b) Components may not add to totals as some persons may have been involved as a volunteer in more than one organisation.

(c) Hours volunteered in the 12 months prior to interview.

(d) Hours of volunteering in all organisations in each organisation type.

LENGTH OF TIME AS A  
VOLUNTEER

Over half of all volunteers (56% or 2.9 million) had been a volunteer for more than ten years. A slightly higher proportion of all sport and physical recreation volunteers had been involved for this period of time when compared with volunteers for other organisations only (59% and 55% respectively). Volunteering for a period of one to five years was the second most common period of involvement with just over a fifth of sport and physical recreation and other volunteers doing so. However, over a quarter (26% or 253,200) of those who volunteered only for a sporting and physical recreation organisation had done so for this period of time.

Relatively few volunteers had volunteered for a period of less than one year with this being noticeable for all sport and physical recreation volunteers (4.6% or 78,900).

**4.2** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS,  
By length of time as a volunteer(a)(b)

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Less than one year	77.1	**1.8	78.9	310.9	389.8
One to five years	253.2	118.6	371.8	814.5	1 186.3
Six to ten years	147.9	103.3	251.2	452.2	703.4
More than ten years	489.4	521.5	1 010.9	1 936.2	2 947.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Less than one year	8.0	**0.2	4.6	8.8	7.5
One to five years	26.2	15.9	21.7	23.2	22.7
Six to ten years	15.3	13.9	14.7	12.9	13.5
More than ten years	50.6	70.0	59.0	55.1	56.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

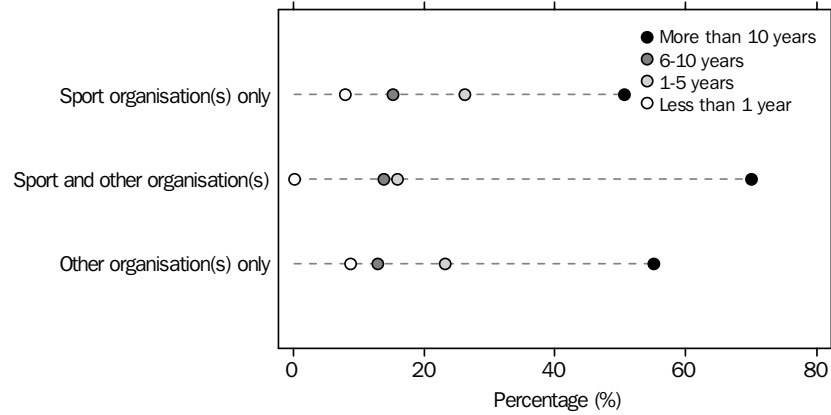
\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Length of time volunteering in all organisations in each organisation type.

(b) Length of time since the respondent first commenced voluntary work of any kind for any organisation, even a one-off activity such as participating in a door-knock.

LENGTH OF TIME AS A VOLUNTEER *continued*

**4.3** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION, By length of time as a volunteer and type of organisation volunteered for



TYPE OF WORK UNDERTAKEN AS A VOLUNTEER

Many volunteers were involved in more than one role. In many cases, these roles were also related to the type of organisation in which they were involved. For example, over half of all sport and physical recreation volunteers (54% or 925,900) were involved in coaching, refereeing or judging. Higher proportions of sport and physical recreation volunteers were also involved in administrative and clerical roles (37% or 637,200) or management and committee work (32% or 544,100) compared with other organisations only (28% or 992,200 and 27% or 943,800 respectively). This may be an indication of the governance required in the management of sporting clubs, i.e. these organisations rely on volunteers to carry out these roles whereas schools and nursing homes have these tasks performed by paid employees.

In comparison, volunteers in other organisations only were more likely to be involved in teaching and providing instruction (39% or 1.4 million), providing support or counselling (31% or 1.1 million) or personal care and assistance (15% or 527,400). There are similar proportions of sport and physical recreation volunteers and other volunteers involved in fundraising or sales (both 55%).

#### 4.4 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By type of voluntary activity undertaken for organisation

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Administration/clerical/recruitment/information management	341.5	295.7	637.2	992.2	1 629.4
Coaching/refereeing/judging	513.5	412.5	925.9	380.7	1 306.6
Performing/media production	67.5	55.4	122.9	416.0	538.9
Befriending/supportive listening/ counselling/mentoring	148.6	130.1	278.8	1 081.4	1 360.2
Fundraising/sales	512.1	420.8	932.9	1 938.2	2 871.1
Preparing/serving food	307.7	328.6	636.4	1 388.0	2 024.4
Transporting people/goods	258.5	247.8	506.3	959.0	1 465.3
Repairing/maintenance/gardening	241.6	159.8	401.4	899.4	1 300.8
Management/committee work/coordination	295.8	248.3	544.1	943.8	1 487.9
Personal care/assistance	51.9	46.7	98.5	527.4	625.9
Teaching/instruction/providing information	227.9	216.7	444.6	1 368.8	1 813.4
Lobbying/advocacy/policy research	47.4	42.1	89.5	285.0	374.5
Search and rescue/first aid/ firefighting/community safety	42.8	30.0	72.8	219.0	291.8
Protecting the environment	*21.4	*34.3	55.7	294.9	350.6
Other	*32.5	*17.4	49.9	328.5	378.4
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>

VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Administration/clerical/recruitment/information management	35.3	39.7	37.2	28.2	31.2
Coaching/refereeing/judging	53.1	55.4	54.1	10.8	25.0
Performing/media production	7.0	7.4	7.2	11.8	10.3
Befriending/supportive listening/ /counselling/mentoring	15.4	17.5	16.3	30.8	26.0
Fundraising/sales	52.9	56.5	54.5	55.2	54.9
Preparing/serving food	31.8	44.1	37.2	39.5	38.7
Transporting people/goods	26.7	33.3	29.6	27.3	28.0
Repairing/maintenance/gardening	25.0	21.4	23.4	25.6	24.9
Management/committee work/coordination	30.6	33.3	31.8	26.9	28.5
Personal care/assistance	5.4	6.3	5.8	15.0	12.0
Teaching/instruction/providing information	23.6	29.1	26.0	39.0	34.7
Lobbying/advocacy/policy research	4.9	5.7	5.2	8.1	7.2
Search and rescue/first aid/ /firefighting/community safety	4.4	4.0	4.3	6.2	5.6
Protecting the environment	*2.2	*4.6	3.3	8.4	6.7
Other	*3.4	*2.3	2.9	9.3	7.2

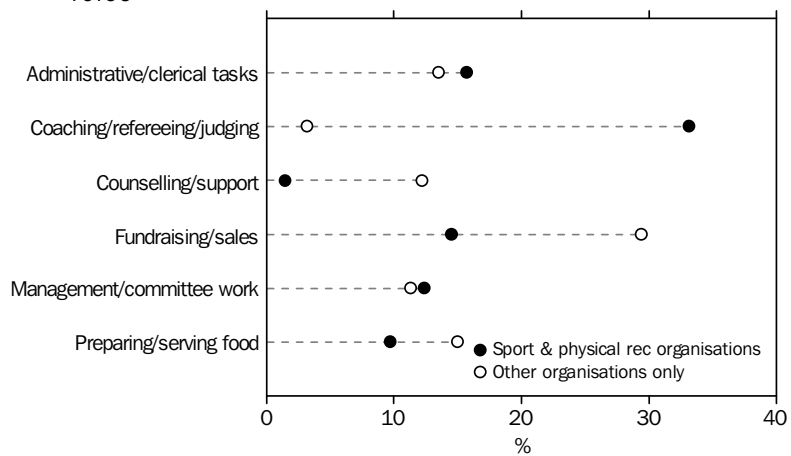
\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Components may not add to totals as some persons may have been involved as a volunteer in more than one role and more than one organisation.

**MOST TIME SPENT IN VOLUNTEER ROLES**

When looking at the roles in which the most time was spent, there are some clear differences between the volunteers for sporting and physical recreation organisations and for other types of organisations. For example, coaching, judging and refereeing remains the main activity undertaken by sport and physical recreation volunteers with 33% of sport and physical recreation volunteers reporting this as the activity on which the most time was spent. In comparison, organisations that provide social services may have volunteers that spend most of their time in fundraising and counselling or support roles.

**4.5** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By type of work undertaken and most time spent in volunteer roles



**REASONS FOR BEING A VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers reported a variety of reasons for volunteering with the three main reasons being to help others in the community (57% or 3.0 million), personal satisfaction (44% or 2.3 million) and personal or family involvement (37% or 1.9 million).

Both volunteers in sport and physical recreation organisations and other organisations only reported helping others in the community as their main reason for volunteering (53% and 58% respectively), followed by personal satisfaction (46% and 43% respectively).

There were some differences in other reasons offered by sport and physical recreation volunteers compared with volunteers for other organisations only. Higher proportions of sport and physical recreation volunteers indicated that personal or family involvement (46%) and social contact (23%) were also reasons for volunteering. Conversely, to do something worthwhile (38%) and religious belief (19%) were reasons offered in higher proportions by volunteers for other organisations only.



**4.6** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By reasons for being a volunteer(a)

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Personal/family involvement	398.6	380.3	778.9	1 162.9	1 941.8
Personal satisfaction	440.3	354.6	794.9	1 503.6	2 298.5
Social contact	227.7	173.1	400.8	753.9	1 154.7
Religious belief	*23.2	85.0	108.3	675.5	783.8
To be active	206.5	133.1	339.6	477.1	816.7
To learn new skills	89.0	85.7	174.7	307.8	482.5
To do something worthwhile	261.3	287.3	548.5	1 344.0	1 892.5
Help others/community	434.2	475.4	909.6	2 049.1	2 958.7
Gain work experience	*27.1	40.4	67.6	140.4	208.0
Use skills/experience	136.4	162.3	298.7	537.0	835.7
Felt obliged	57.8	55.7	113.5	217.9	331.4
Just happened	*24.0	*8.9	32.9	17.7	50.6
Other	*16.2	*15.6	*31.8	99.2	131.0
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Personal/family involvement	41.2	51.0	45.5	33.1	37.2
Personal satisfaction	45.5	47.6	46.4	42.8	44.0
Social contact	23.5	23.2	23.4	21.5	22.1
Religious belief	*2.4	11.4	6.3	19.2	15.0
To be active	21.3	17.9	19.8	13.6	15.6
To learn new skills	9.2	11.5	10.2	8.8	9.2
To do something worthwhile	27.0	38.6	32.0	38.3	36.2
Help others/community	44.9	63.8	53.1	58.3	56.6
Gain work experience	*2.8	5.4	3.9	4.0	4.0
Use skills/experience	14.1	21.8	17.4	15.3	16.0
Felt obliged	6.0	7.5	6.6	6.2	6.3
Just happened	*2.5	*1.2	1.9	0.5	1.0
Other	*1.7	*2.1	*1.9	2.8	2.5

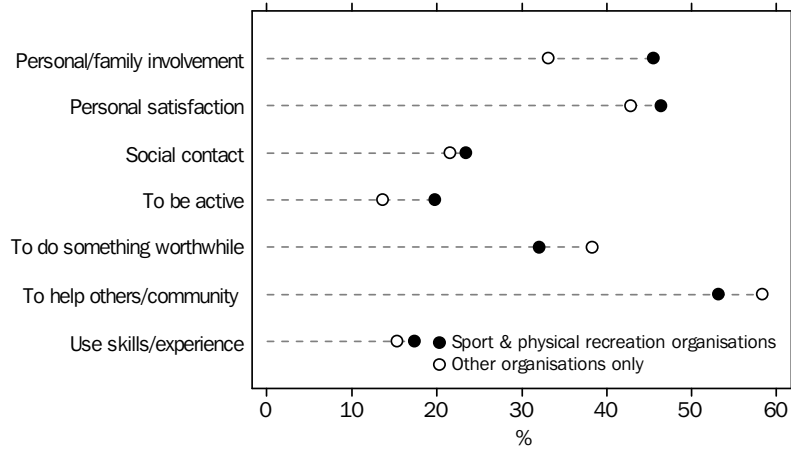
\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Persons may have indicated more than one reason for volunteering.

(b) Volunteers may give more than one reason, therefore figures for individual categories will not add to 100%.

REASONS FOR BEING A VOLUNTEER *continued*

**4.7** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By selected main reasons for being a volunteer



HOW FIRST BECAME INVOLVED IN VOLUNTARY WORK

In the GSS, only those who had volunteered for less than 10 years (44% or 2.3 million of all volunteers and 41% or 701,800 of sport and physical recreation volunteers) were asked how they first became involved in voluntary work.

When looking at the data for those volunteers who had volunteered for less than ten years, the two main ways that people became involved were that they were asked by someone else (35% or 806,200) or that they knew someone who was also involved (29% or 654,600). These 'social contact' reasons were supported by a further 17% (377,300) who indicated that they became a volunteer because they were already involved in the organisation in some other way.

These methods of initial involvement were also the most commonly reported by sport and physical recreation volunteers with almost a third (33%) becoming involved because they were asked or because they knew someone who was already involved (31%). However, volunteers for sporting organisations were more likely to have become first involved because they were already involved with the organisation – 22% of sport and physical recreation volunteers indicated this reason compared with 14% of volunteers in other organisations only.

Relatively few sport and physical recreation volunteers said they became involved by finding out about the role(s) themselves (9% or 64,900) and even fewer became involved by responding to an advertisement or a media story (2% or 10,700). Advertising was also not a strong means of recruiting volunteers for other organisations only with 6% (92,400) of other volunteers reporting that responding to advertising was the means by which they first became involved.

**4.8** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS(a), By how first became involved in voluntary work

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Knew someone involved	162.3	57.4	219.7	434.9	654.6
Someone asked (respondent)	156.3	71.5	227.8	578.4	806.2
Self involvement in organisation	96.7	58.9	155.6	221.7	377.3
Saw advertisement/report in media	**5.1	**5.6	*10.7	92.4	103.1
Found out about it by himself/herself	*40.1	*24.8	64.9	178.2	243.1
Other	*17.8	**5.3	*23.1	72.0	95.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>478.3</b>	<b>223.6</b>	<b>701.9</b>	<b>1 577.5</b>	<b>2 279.4</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Knew someone involved	33.9	25.7	31.3	27.6	28.7
Someone asked (respondent)	32.7	32.0	32.5	36.7	35.4
Self involvement in organisation	20.2	26.3	22.2	14.1	16.6
Saw advertisement/report in media	*1.1	*2.5	*1.5	5.9	4.5
Found out about it by himself/herself	*8.4	*11.1	9.2	11.3	10.7
Other	*3.7	**2.4	*3.3	4.6	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

(a) All volunteers for less than 10 years.

The ABS *Information Paper: Measuring Social Capital – An Australian Framework and Indicators, 2004* (cat no. 1378.0) introduces and discusses a framework in which various elements of social capital may be measured.

The active involvement of people in the community, be it as volunteers or as participants in activities with a community benefit, is one of the underlying concepts of social capital.

The three elements of the framework are social participation, civic participation and community support. Social participation is participation in inherently enjoyable activities valued in their own right, either formal, provided by organised groups, or informal, with family and friends. Civic participation is involvement in activities reflecting interest and engagement with governance and democracy, such as membership of political parties and trade/unions/professional associations, serving on committees of clubs and associations, contacting members of parliament, and attending community consultations. Community support is the provision of assistance usually in the form of services or opportunities for participation for individuals, groups and the wider community. Many people are active in providing support to the wider community through voluntary work in clubs, associations and organisations (ABS 2004). However, all types of community or social involvement that involve some form of social exchange may be considered to contribute to social capital.

A key concept underlying social capital and discussed in the framework is the concept of 'community'. The framework considers several meanings of this term but those of direct relevance here include:

- communities of identity where there are cultural ties;
- communities of interest where activities are shared;
- intimate communities of families and friends; and
- communities defined by location or geography.

The social capital framework also observes that closely bonded groups are most likely to be trusting, share common values and provide material and emotional support to members of the group. It is not useful, though, to limit 'community' to closely bonded groups (ABS 2004). Trust is one of the qualities of networks listed as an element of social capital, and generalised trust and feelings of safety at home and in the local community are suggested indicators of trust for which there are available data.

This section presents information about the broader involvement of volunteers in the community, their involvement as members of a community and the other community activities that they undertake. It also includes information on the levels of trust and feelings of safety of volunteers and non-volunteers.

INVOLVEMENT OF  
PARENTS IN VOLUNTARY  
WORK AND COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN  
AS A CHILD

These items were included in the General Social Survey (GSS) to explore the idea that volunteering is something that may be related to family and childhood experiences.

Around 43% (3.5 million) of the population aged 18 years and over who had at least one parent who had volunteered, were volunteers themselves. In comparison, the overall rate of volunteering was 34%. These 3.5 million volunteers who had parents who had done voluntary work, also represented two thirds (66%) of the 5.2 million total volunteers.

For sport and physical recreation volunteers, this proportion was higher, as 71% (1.2 million) of sport and physical recreation volunteers had parents who had done voluntary work. The proportions were also higher for sport and physical recreation volunteers in most age groups. For example of those aged 25-34 years, 75% were sport and physical recreation volunteers who had parents who had done voluntary work. In comparison, 63% of volunteers for other organisations only who were aged 25-34 years, had parents who had volunteered.

**5.1** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By whether at least one parent participated in voluntary work

PARENTS HAVE DONE VOLUNTARY WORK

	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)						
18-24 years	152.6	272.9	425.5	210.3	364.0	574.3
25-34 years	210.9	364.6	575.5	280.6	578.3	858.9
35-44 years	375.4	517.8	893.2	510.4	764.7	1 275.1
45-54 years	301.2	465.6	766.8	424.2	677.4	1 101.6
55 years & over	175.5	620.0	795.5	287.2	1 129.5	1 416.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 215.6</b>	<b>2 241.1</b>	<b>3 456.7</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)						
18-24 years	12.6	12.2	12.3	12.3	10.4	11.0
25-34 years	17.3	16.3	16.6	16.4	16.5	16.4
35-44 years	30.9	23.1	25.8	29.8	21.8	24.4
45-54 years	24.8	20.8	22.2	24.8	19.3	21.1
55 years & over	14.4	27.7	23.0	16.8	32.1	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A similar relationship also appears between volunteering and whether a person was involved in community or group activities as a child. Over 48% (2.1 million) of those who were active in religious organisations as a child were volunteers in 2006, compared with 37% (4.2 million) of those who participated in organised team sport. Over 16% (267,000) did not undertake any of the defined activities as a child.

INVOLVEMENT OF  
PARENTS IN VOLUNTARY  
WORK AND COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN  
AS A CHILD *continued*

Over ninety percent (93% or 1.6 million) of sport and physical recreation volunteers participated in organised sport as a child. Those who participated in organised sport and physical recreation organisations as a child also had a rate of volunteering in sport and physical recreation of 14% (1.6 million) compared with 11% (1.7 million) for the population as a whole.

For those participating in active community work such as voluntary work or fund-raising as a child, the level of volunteering for sport as an adult was 16% (767,400) and 15% (950,900) respectively for sport and physical recreation volunteers. Interestingly 84% (1.4 million) of non-volunteers reported no active participation in group activities as a child.

**5.2** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, by type of participation in group activities as child/youth and volunteer organisation(a)

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisations(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Organised team sport	894.7	694.7	1 589.4	2 655.7	4 245.1
Youth group (such as guides, scouts, a choir)	566.3	507.4	1 073.6	2 295.9	3 369.5
Did some kind of volunteer work	363.9	403.4	767.4	1 462.6	2 230.0
Raised money door-to-door or in public place for a cause or organisation	475.6	475.3	950.9	1 761.8	2 712.7
Active in student government	106.6	115.1	221.7	390.2	611.9
Active in a religious organisation	209.2	344.9	554.1	1 550.8	2 104.9
None of these as child/youth	*29.8	*17.2	47.0	220.0	267.0
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Organised team sport	7.8	6.1	13.9	23.3	37.2
Youth group (such as guides, scouts, a choir)	7.0	6.3	13.3	28.4	41.7
Did some kind of volunteer work	7.5	8.3	15.8	30.2	46.0
Raised money door-to-door or in public place for a cause or organisation	7.7	7.7	15.3	28.4	43.7
Active in student government	8.3	8.9	17.2	30.2	47.4
Active in a religious organisation	4.8	7.9	12.7	35.5	48.1
None of these as child/youth	*1.8	*1.1	2.9	13.5	16.3

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

(a) Persons may have been involved in more than one type of activity as a child/youth.

(b) Components may not add to totals as some persons may have been involved as a volunteer in more than one organisation.

ATTENDANCE AT AND  
PARTICIPATION IN SPORT  
OR COMMUNITY  
RECREATION AND  
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
AND GROUPS

Volunteering is a strong indicator of community involvement and those who so contribute their time may be more likely to participate in other community or recreational activities or to use community cultural resources such as libraries, galleries and performing arts venues.

Over three quarters (76% or 4 million) of all volunteers participated in sport or physical recreational activity; 60% (3.1 million) had attended a sporting event; and 96% (5 million) had attended at least one of the selected cultural venues in the survey. In comparison, non-volunteers had a rate of participation in sport of 55%; just under half (48%) had attended a sporting event and 85% had attended a cultural event or activity.

Volunteers for sport and physical recreation organisations also had higher rates of actual participation in sport (88%) compared with volunteers for other organisations only (70%). They were also more likely to have attended a sporting event than volunteers for other organisations only (81% had attended a sporting event compared with 49% of volunteers for other organisations only).

Of those who participated in sport, 4 million (42%) were volunteers with almost 40% of these (1.5 million) volunteering for sporting and physical recreation organisations. This represents a rate of volunteering for sport by sport participants of 16%.

More than one in six (17% or 1.4 million) of those who had attended a sporting event and 1.6 million (12%) of those who participated in cultural activities were sport and physical recreation volunteers.

### 5.3 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By participation in sport and physical recreation activity and attendance at selected cultural venues and events in last 12 months

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Participated in sport or recreational physical activity	848.3	664.3	1 512.6	2 475.9	3 988.5
Did not participate in sport or recreational physical activity	119.4	80.7	200.2	1 037.8	1 238.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
Has attended sporting events	799.7	590.7	1 390.5	1 728.7	3 119.2
Has not attended any sporting events	168.0	154.3	322.3	1 785.1	2 107.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
Has attended selected culture and leisure venues and activities	915.3	724.3	1 639.6	3 365.5	5 005.1
Has not attended any selected culture and leisure venues and activities	52.4	*20.8	73.2	148.2	221.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Participated in sport or recreational physical activity	87.7	89.2	88.3	70.5	76.3
Did not participate in sport or recreational physical activity	12.3	10.8	11.7	29.5	23.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Has attended sporting events	82.6	79.3	81.2	49.2	59.7
Has not attended any sporting events	17.4	20.7	18.8	50.8	40.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Has attended selected culture and leisure venues and activities	94.6	97.2	95.7	95.8	95.8
Has not attended any selected culture and leisure venues and activities	5.4	*2.8	4.3	4.2	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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



INVOLVEMENT IN  
VARIOUS GROUPS AND  
ACTIVITIES

Participation in sport and attendance at, or use of, cultural venues or facilities are just two examples of social involvement in community activities. However, there is a much broader range of organisations in which people participate. Volunteers may be more likely to be involved in community groups, governance or citizenship groups or other social groups. Similarly, those involved in these groups may be more likely to be active volunteers.

The 2006 GSS sought information on active involvement in these groups and categorised the organisations into community groups consisting of organisations such as those related to health and welfare, education and emergency services; governance and citizenship groups such as unions, human rights, environmental and animal welfare groups and consumer organisations; and social groups such as sporting clubs, religious groups, arts and crafts groups, multicultural and other special interest groups.

A third of the population (33% or 5.1 million) were involved in at least one of the community groups and almost one in five adults (19% or 2.8 million) were involved in at least one of the governance or citizenship groups. Many more people (63% or 9.6 million) were involved in social groups.

Individually, sport and physical recreation groups attracted the highest number of people with 5.2 million (34%) adults involved in this type of organisation. This was followed by social clubs and religious and spiritual groups (both 3 million or 20%) and education and other recreation, special interest groups (2 million or 13%).

Volunteers for sport and physical recreation organisations had the highest level of involvement with sport and physical recreation groups at 88% (or 1.5 million) compared with other organisations only (1.3 million or 36%)

Over half (51% or 870,400) of the sport and physical recreation volunteers were also involved with community groups compared with 62% (2.2 million) of volunteers for other organisations only. Similar proportions of sport and physical recreation volunteers and volunteers for other organisations only were involved with governance and citizenship groups.

Those adults who were not volunteers had correspondingly lower proportions of involvement in community groups. Just over half (51% or 5.2 million) of those who did not volunteer were involved with social groups. However, this proportion declined to 20% (2 million) for involvement with community groups and 14% (1.4 million) for governance and citizenship groups.

The highest rate of volunteering for sport and physical organisations was by those involved in a sport or physical recreation group (29% or 1.5 million). This was followed by those involved in education and training support groups (23% or 934,900) and emergency services (22% or 206,700). In comparison, volunteers for other organisations only were more likely to be actively involved in welfare organisations (55% or 561,900), civic groups (50% or 239,500), political parties (49% or 102,000), international aid and development organisations and religious organisations (both 47%).

#### 5.4 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By active involvement in various groups and activities in the last 12 months

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>	<i>Total Persons aged 18 years &amp; over</i>
<b>VOLUNTEERS ('000)</b>						
<b>Community group</b>						
Service clubs	59.0	98.8	157.8	390.3	548.1	895.4
Welfare organisations	*23.9	114.8	138.8	561.9	700.7	1 015.3
Education and training	127.4	335.1	462.5	934.9	1 397.4	2 037.0
Parenting/children/youth	74.2	180.9	255.1	596.3	851.4	1 357.7
Health promotion and support	55.5	147.5	203.0	419.6	622.6	1 011.7
Emergency Services	43.4	67.3	110.7	206.7	317.4	497.1
International aid and development	*20.2	83.0	103.3	295.9	399.2	630.4
Other community groups	—	**5.8	**5.8	*15.7	*21.5	36.4
<i>Total persons with involvement(a)</i>	299.1	571.3	870.4	2 184.5	3 054.9	5 093.7
No active involvement in community support groups	668.6	173.8	842.4	1 329.2	2 171.6	10 213.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>	<b>15 307.1</b>
<b>Governance or citizenship groups</b>						
Trade union, professional/technical association	111.8	113.8	225.6	309.9	535.5	1 121.0
Political party	**6.2	*13.3	*19.5	102.0	121.5	206.5
Civic group or organisation	*34.1	66.1	100.2	239.5	339.7	482.1
Environmental or animal welfare group	41.0	96.3	137.3	351.8	489.1	767.9
Human and civil rights groups	**9.2	42.6	51.8	130.0	181.8	343.9
Body corporate or tenants' association	*44.9	60.8	105.7	220.4	326.1	677.1
Consumer organisation	*8.5	*13.4	*22.0	62.2	84.2	148.9
Other civic or political organisation	—	**6.6	**6.6	**0.1	**6.7	**8.9
<i>Total persons with involvement(a)</i>	211.6	275.4	487.1	983.4	1 470.5	2 847.3
No active involvement in civil or government groups	756.1	469.7	1 225.7	2 530.3	3 756.0	12 459.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>	<b>15 307.1</b>
<b>Social group</b>						
Sport or physical recreation group	870.6	642.2	1 512.8	1 267.1	2 779.9	5 233.9
Arts or heritage group	63.9	138.7	202.5	610.6	813.1	1 374.1
Religious or spiritual group or organisation	74.3	244.2	318.4	1 407.2	1 725.6	3 020.8
Craft or practical hobby group	62.2	119.7	181.9	566.0	747.9	1 307.1
Adult education, other recreation or special interest group	113.4	188.5	301.9	736.2	1 038.1	1 973.3
Ethnic/multicultural club	*13.0	*26.3	39.3	227.2	266.5	616.8
Social clubs providing restaurants or bars	300.8	286.5	587.3	830.7	1 418.0	3 063.5
Other social groups	**0.8	**2.7	**3.4	*10.1	*13.5	*31.8
<i>Total persons with involvement(a)</i>	914.3	708.2	1 622.5	2 816.9	4 439.4	9 602.6
No active involvement in social groups	53.4	*36.9	90.3	696.8	787.1	5 704.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>	<b>15 307.1</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Components may not add to totals as some persons may have been involved as a volunteer in more than one group.

**5.4** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By active involvement in various groups and activities in the last 12 months *continued*

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>	<i>Total Persons aged 18 years &amp; over</i>
VOLUNTEERS (%)						
<b>Community group</b>						
Service clubs	6.1	13.3	9.2	11.1	10.5	5.8
Welfare organisations	*2.5	15.4	8.1	16.0	13.4	6.6
Education and training	13.2	45.0	27.0	26.6	26.7	13.3
Parenting/children/youth	7.7	24.3	14.9	17.0	16.3	8.9
Health promotion and support	5.7	19.8	11.9	11.9	11.9	6.6
Emergency Services	4.5	9.0	6.5	5.9	6.1	3.2
International aid and development	*2.1	11.1	6.0	8.4	7.6	4.1
Other community groups	—	**0.8	**0.3	*0.4	*0.4	0.2
<i>Total persons with involvement(a)</i>	30.9	76.7	50.8	62.2	58.5	33.3
No active involvement in community support groups	69.1	23.3	49.2	37.8	41.5	66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Governance or citizenship groups</b>						
Trade union, professional/technical association	11.6	15.3	13.2	8.8	10.2	7.3
Political party	**0.6	*1.8	*1.1	2.9	2.3	1.3
Civic group or organisation	*3.5	8.9	5.9	6.8	6.5	3.1
Environmental or animal welfare group	4.2	12.9	8.0	10.0	9.4	5.0
Human and civil rights groups	**1.0	5.7	3.0	3.7	3.5	2.2
Body corporate or tenants' association	*4.6	8.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	4.4
Consumer organisation	*0.9	*1.8	*1.3	1.8	1.6	1.0
Other civic or political organisation	—	**0.9	**0.4	**—	**0.1	**0.1
<i>Total persons with involvement(a)</i>	21.9	37.0	28.4	28.0	28.1	18.6
No active involvement in civil or government groups	78.1	63.0	71.6	72.0	71.9	81.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Social group</b>						
Sport or physical recreation group	90.0	86.2	88.3	36.1	53.2	34.2
Arts or heritage group	6.6	18.6	11.8	17.4	15.6	9.0
Religious or spiritual group or organisation	7.7	32.8	18.6	40.0	33.0	19.7
Craft or practical hobby group	6.4	16.1	10.6	16.1	14.3	8.5
Adult education, other recreation or special interest group	11.7	25.3	17.6	21.0	19.9	12.9
Ethnic/multicultural club	*1.3	*3.5	2.3	6.5	5.1	4.0
Social clubs providing restaurants or bars	31.1	38.5	34.3	23.6	27.1	20.0
Other social groups	**0.1	**0.4	**0.2	*0.3	*0.3	*0.2
<i>Total persons with involvement(a)</i>	94.5	95.0	94.7	80.2	84.9	62.7
No active involvement in social groups	5.5	*5.0	5.3	19.8	15.1	37.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Components may not add to totals as some persons may have been involved as a volunteer in more than one group.

DIVERSITY OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

Almost 60% of all adults (57% or 8.7 million) reported that all or most of their friends had a similar education, 66% of people (10.1 million) reported that most of their friends were of a similar age and 73% (11.1 million) had all or most of their friends from a similar ethnic background.

Slightly larger proportions of volunteers than non-volunteers have all or most of their friends from the same ethnic background, similar age group or educational attainment.

Similarly the proportions of sport and physical recreation volunteers were higher than those of volunteers for other organisations only. Almost four out of five sport and physical recreation volunteers (78% or 1.3 million) compared with 74% (2.6 million) of volunteers for other organisations only had all or most of their friends from the same ethnic background; and 69% (1.2 million) of sport and physical recreation volunteers had all or most of their friends of a similar age, compared with 67% (2.3 million) of all volunteers for other organisations only.

**5.5** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By proportion of friends with same ethnic background, similar age and similar education

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
<i>Friends of same ethnic background</i>					
All/most	738.4	588.4	1 326.7	2 592.6	3 919.3
About half	96.7	70.2	166.9	359.9	526.8
Few/none(a)	132.6	86.4	219.1	561.3	780.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
<i>Friends of similar age</i>					
All/most	693.7	493.3	1 187.0	2 337.8	3 524.8
About half	180.1	187.1	367.2	706.2	1 073.4
Few/none(a)	93.9	64.7	158.6	469.8	628.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
<i>Friends with similar education</i>					
All/most	577.9	445.8	1 023.6	2 055.9	3 079.5
About half	193.9	181.5	375.3	645.6	1 020.9
Few/none(a)	196.0	117.8	313.8	812.3	1 126.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
<i>Friends of same ethnic background</i>					
All/most	76.3	79.0	77.5	73.8	75.0
About half	10.0	9.4	9.7	10.2	10.1
Few/none(a)	13.7	11.6	12.8	16.0	14.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<i>Friends of similar age</i>					
All/most	71.7	66.2	69.3	66.5	67.4
About half	18.6	25.1	21.4	20.1	20.5
Few/none(a)	9.7	8.7	9.3	13.4	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<i>Friends with similar education</i>					
All/most	59.7	59.8	59.8	58.5	58.9
About half	20.0	24.4	21.9	18.4	19.5
Few/none(a)	20.3	15.8	18.3	23.1	21.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes the category 'don't know'.

## FEELINGS OF TRUST

The survey included a number of questions relating to trust. These questions sought an opinion as to whether police in the local area, outside the local area, one's doctor and hospital could be generally trusted or be trusted to do 'the right thing' for the individual. A question on generalised trust was also asked. Using this latter measure, just over half the population (54% or 8.3 million) strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that most people could be trusted. Almost a third (30%, 4.6 million) somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposition.

Volunteers, regardless of the type of organisation volunteered for, are generally more trusting in the community with 60% (3.1 million) of all volunteers strongly or somewhat agreeing that people could be trusted. This compared with 51% (5.2 million) of non-volunteers who claimed these levels of trust. There was little difference in the levels of trust reported by both volunteers for sport and physical recreation and by other volunteers with 61% and 59%, respectively.

**5.6** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS,  
By level of generalised trust

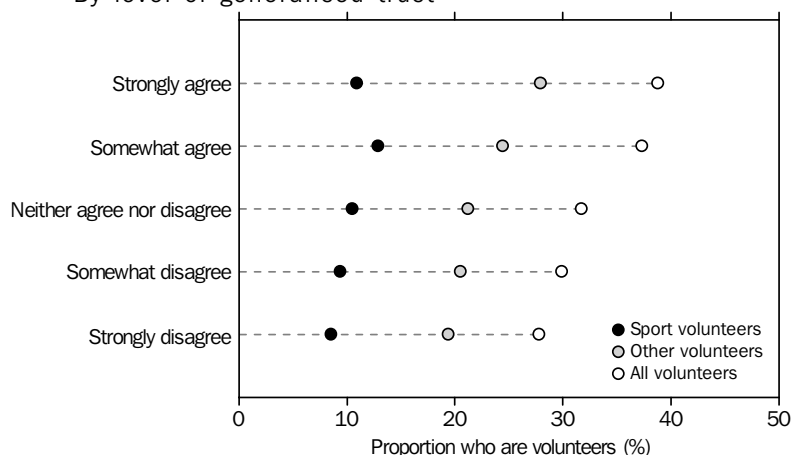
	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
Strongly agree	92.6	75.7	168.2	428.8	597.0
Somewhat agree	466.3	404.4	870.7	1 645.2	2 515.9
Neither agree nor disagree	139.5	114.1	253.6	509.7	763.3
Somewhat disagree	185.2	114.0	299.2	650.9	950.1
Strongly disagree	84.2	*36.9	121.1	279.2	400.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
Strongly agree	9.6	10.2	9.8	12.2	11.4
Somewhat agree	48.2	54.3	50.8	46.8	48.1
Neither agree nor disagree	14.4	15.3	14.8	14.5	14.6
Somewhat disagree	19.1	15.3	17.5	18.5	18.2
Strongly disagree	8.7	*5.0	7.1	7.9	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

FEELINGS OF TRUST

*continued*

**5.7** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By level of generalised trust



FEELINGS OF SAFETY

Feelings of trust might also extend to feelings of safety in the community. While it is not possible to draw a causal connection between these concepts, higher proportions of volunteers feel safe in the community compared with those who did not volunteer.

Over two thirds (70% or 3.7 million) of volunteers reported feeling very safe at home alone during the day compared with non-volunteers (62% or 6.3 million).

Over fifty percent (52% or 2.7 million) of volunteers felt very safe at home alone after dark compared with non-volunteers (46% or 4.7 million) and one in five volunteers (21% or 1.1 million) felt very safe walking alone after dark in the local area compared with non-volunteers (17% or 1.7 million)

Sport and physical recreation volunteers reported slightly higher levels of feelings of safety than volunteers for other organisations only, although these differences disappear when the categories of 'very safe' and 'safe' are combined. In this situation, similar proportions of volunteers for sporting organisations, volunteers for other organisations only and of non-volunteers reported feeling very safe or safe at home alone during the day (97%, 96% and 94%, respectively). However, these differences were greater for feelings of safety at home alone after dark with the proportions feeling very safe or safe being 91% for sport and physical recreation volunteers, 87% for volunteers for other organisations only and 84% for non-volunteers.

## 5.8 SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, By feelings of safety at home and in local area

	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s) only</i>	<i>Sport &amp; physical recreation and other organisation(s)</i>	<i>Total sport &amp; physical recreation organisation(s)</i>	<i>Other organisations only</i>	<i>Total volunteers</i>
VOLUNTEERS ('000)					
<b>Feelings of safety at home alone during the day</b>					
Very safe	714.3	564.7	1 279.1	2 380.5	3 659.6
Safe	226.5	164.8	391.3	986.6	1 377.9
Neither safe nor unsafe	*11.9	*8.3	*20.2	91.4	111.6
Unsafe/very unsafe(a)	*14.9	*7.2	*22.2	55.2	77.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
<b>Feelings of safety at home alone after dark</b>					
Very safe	575.3	431.8	1 007.1	1 720.2	2 727.3
Safe	300.4	255.8	556.2	1 348.4	1 904.6
Neither safe nor unsafe	56.2	34.5	90.7	205.0	295.7
Unsafe/very unsafe(b)	35.7	23.0	58.7	240.2	298.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
<b>Feelings of safety walking alone after dark</b>					
Very safe	290.5	199.6	490.1	611.3	1 101.4
Safe	334.6	260.9	595.4	1 054.1	1 649.5
Neither safe nor unsafe	134.1	109.9	244.0	439.4	683.4
Unsafe/very unsafe(c)	208.6	174.7	383.2	1 409.2	1 792.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>745.1</b>	<b>1 712.8</b>	<b>3 513.7</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>
VOLUNTEERS (%)					
<b>Feelings of safety at home alone during the day</b>					
Very safe	73.8	75.8	74.7	67.7	70.0
Safe	23.4	22.1	22.8	28.1	26.4
Neither safe nor unsafe	*1.2	*1.1	*1.2	2.6	2.1
Unsafe/very unsafe(a)	*1.5	*1.0	*1.3	1.6	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Feelings of safety at home alone after dark</b>					
Very safe	59.5	58.0	58.8	49.0	52.2
Safe	31.0	34.3	32.5	38.4	36.4
Neither safe nor unsafe	5.8	4.6	5.3	5.8	5.7
Unsafe/very unsafe(b)	3.7	3.1	3.4	6.8	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Feelings of safety walking alone after dark</b>					
Very safe	30.0	26.8	28.6	17.4	21.1
Safe	34.6	35.0	34.8	30.0	31.6
Neither safe nor unsafe	13.9	14.7	14.2	12.5	13.1
Unsafe/very unsafe(c)	21.6	23.4	22.4	40.1	34.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(b) Includes never home alone after dark.

(c) Includes never walk alone after dark.

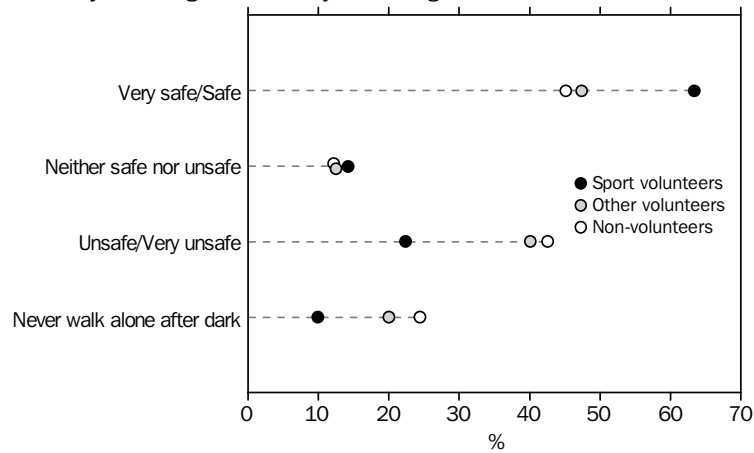
(a) Includes never home alone during the day.



FEELINGS OF SAFETY  
*continued*

Three out of five sport and physical recreation volunteers (63% or 1.1 million) reported feeling very safe or safe compared with 47% (or 1.7 million) of volunteers for other organisations only and 45% (or 4.6 million) of non-volunteers. Of note is that volunteers for other organisations only indicate that they feel less safe than both sport and physical recreation volunteers and non-volunteers when walking alone in the local area after dark.

**5.9** SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS,  
By feelings of safety walking alone in local area after dark



## EXPLANATORY NOTES .....

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents summary data on volunteering in sport and physical recreation organisations, compiled from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS). The GSS collected information about personal and household characteristics for people aged 18 years and over resident in private dwellings, throughout non-remote areas of Australia, from March to July 2006.

**2** This publication consists of data cubes and a report available from the downloads tab of the publication.

**3** Further Explanatory Notes on the 2006 GSS can be found in *General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4159.0). These Explanatory Notes contain information on the scope of the survey, sample design, data collection, weighting and reliability of estimates. The publication also contains a Technical Note that provides information on data reliability.

### EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

**4** Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**5** Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4159.0)

*General Social Survey: User Guide, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4159.0.55.002)

*Information Paper: Measuring Social Capital – An Australian Framework and Indicators, 2004* (cat. no. 1378.0)

*Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia, Apr 2007* (cat. no. 6285.0)

*Sport and Social Capital, Australia, 2006* (cat no. 4917.0)

*Voluntary Work, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4441.0)

**6** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> (Statistics). The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website (Future Releases) which details products to be released in the week ahead. The National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics theme page also contains a wealth of information and useful references. This site can be accessed through the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> (Themes – Culture and Recreation).

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