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got a
story
for you?**

**Enrich your life by
volunteering in
residential aged care**



Re-engaging Volunteers into RACF Program

Media release

Thursday 28 April 2022

Would you like to make a meaningful difference to the lives of our older citizens and gain much in return? Volunteer for our Re- Engaging Volunteers into Residential Aged Care Program

A call to fill a critical shortage of volunteers in residential aged care facilities (RACFs) hopes to inspire more Queenslanders to provide social support for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

The Re-engaging Volunteers into Residential Aged Care Facilities Program is encouraging new and returning volunteers to experience the joy and satisfaction of giving back to the community. Volunteers are needed for non-clinical social support to help in aged care facilities, providing companionship and assisting with leisure activities to combat social isolation and loneliness.

Volunteers in metropolitan and regional areas will be matched with a local residential aged care facility that register for the program. Volunteers will need to complete informative, helpful, accessible training, and undertake a police check, both at no cost to the volunteer. Volunteers will also be required to show proof of COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, as relevant.

Volunteer numbers have fallen dramatically during the COVID-19. More than 70 per cent of volunteers were not able to assist during the pandemic. Volunteers are a critical life-force in many communities and have been sadly missed.

Mara Basanovic, CEO of Volunteering Queensland said: "Queenslanders are compassionate, generous, and supportive of their local and wider communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen tens of



This program is an initiative of the Department of Health supported by State and Territory Volunteering Peak Bodies.



thousands join the Care Army to lend a helping hand to others who found themselves vulnerable and in need. With COVID-19 restrictions easing, we are seeing more and more volunteers come forward wanting to make a difference. It is heartening to see volunteers care for the wellbeing of our older citizens in aged care facilities across Queensland.”

“These volunteers will provide warm and joyful companionship and social connection through the sharing of conversations and entertainment, allowing residents to feel part of the community once more.” Ms Basanovic said.

“Volunteers have long played a vital role in aged care and we welcome all those who would like to bring a little happiness to the lives of others through this mutually rewarding program.”

By working together, all Australian state and territory volunteering peak bodies are committed to making the volunteering process as easy as possible, providing informative, accessible training and support to appropriately match each volunteer with an aged care facility.

If you are interested in volunteering for this fulfilling, meaningful program you can register at <https://www.agedcarevolunteering.org.au/>

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