

Building Community: Gifting Time Project

Building Community: Gifting Time is a pilot project under the umbrella of the Sunshine Coast Community Co-Lab model. The Co-Lab model is a pilot initiative and partnership between Sunshine Coast Council and the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC).

Sunshine Coast Community Co-Lab is a best practice engagement model that aims to bring together the resources of the Sunshine Coast community, council, UniSC and their students to share knowledge and collectively respond to local challenges and opportunities. The program aims to open a dialogue on items that matter to the community and invites them to co-create locally appropriate responses.

Between 18 October and 7 December 2022, a comprehensive community engagement program was delivered both in the community and online. There were three key community engagement activities in the volunteer project, Building Community: Gifting Time:

- Community Survey (open from 18 October to 29 November 2022)
- Public Seminar (held on 27 October 2022)
- Young person's focus groups (hosted between October and November 2022)
- Community Forum (held on 7 December 2022)

A series of Topic Area Resources have been compiled utilising the comments collected at the Community Forum supported by some of the findings from the Community Survey.

Topic Areas

Topic 1 – New Residents

Topic 2 - Promoting volunteering opportunities

Topic 3 - Creating welcoming environments

Topic 4 - Overcoming the barriers

Topic 5 - Virtual volunteering

Topic 6 - Reducing red tape

Topic 7 - Informal volunteering

References:

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA-Key-Volunteering-Statistics-2022-Update.pdf>

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/benefits-of-volunteering>

[Social Media Statistics for Australia \(Updated January 2023\) Genroe](#)

https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/files_mf/1377046458VANSVI2008.pdf

<https://volunteeringstrategy.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Volunteering-in-Australia-2022-The-Volunteer-Perspective.pdf>

[How can we bolster Australia's depleted army of volunteers to match the soaring demand for their services? \(theconversation.com\)](#)

List of potential volunteer opportunities

- Sports clubs
- Museums
- Galleries
- Community Halls
- Community Gardens
- Schools
- Community Centres
- Community Libraries
- Visitor information
- Hospitals
- Events and festivals