

Senate community Affairs Legislation Committee
Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017

Questions on Notice**Question 7****Hansard Reference: page 35**

Senator SIEWERT: ...Could I now ask a question of Volunteering Australia on notice. You raised before the issue of the proportion of volunteers that are in that older category. Could you provide a breakdown of the volunteers under the age groups.

Volunteering Australia highlights that according to the 2016 Census results, there are 3,620,726 people engaging in voluntary work for an organisation or group in Australia.ⁱ Of the total volunteer engagement in Australia, 278,496 people are aged 55 to 59.ⁱⁱ A more comprehensive breakdown of volunteers aged 55 to 59 indicates:

- 59,241 are aged 55 years
- 56,858 are aged 56 years
- 55,116 are aged 57 years
- 54,566 are aged 58 years
- 52,723 are aged 59 yearsⁱⁱⁱ

Census data pinpoints that there is a higher amount of volunteers in total, aged 55 to 59 in New South Wales, Australia's most populated state, at 86,927. This is followed by Victoria at 69,959, Queensland at 54,643, Western Australia at 27,628, South Australia at 23,266, Tasmania at 8,159, Australian Capital Territory at 5,328, Northern Territory at 2,470 and finally Other Territories at 118.^{iv}

VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) by State									
	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Other Territories
55 years	18366	14922	11742	4846	6021	1636	542	1145	18
56 years	17776	14208	11121	4738	5673	1636	544	1130	28
57 years	17147	14004	10778	4590	5460	1605	468	1033	26
58 years	17053	13709	10725	4488	5365	1669	465	1065	24
59 years	16585	13110	10272	4602	5109	1615	448	955	23
Total	86927	69959	54643	23266	27628	8159	2470	5328	118

The 2016 Census data also highlights that there are a higher proportion of female volunteers, than male volunteers in each age group aged 55 to 59. In total, there are 150,389 female volunteers aged 55 to 59, compared to 128,106 male volunteers.^v This reinforces data collected by Volunteering Australia, that women are more likely to volunteer than men.

The table below provides a detailed breakdown by age and sex:

Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) by Sex		
	Male	Female
55 years	27439	31804
56 years	26239	30621
57 years	25492	29622
58 years	24987	29577
59 years	23953	28771
Total	128106	150389

ⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017), 2016 Census, 'Employment, Education and Education', 'Australia (UR) by VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group', 'Persons, Place of Usual Residence'.

ⁱⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017), 2016 Census, 'Employment, Education and Education', 'VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group by AGE5P – Age in Five Year Groups', 'Persons, Place of Usual Residence'.

ⁱⁱⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017), 2016 Census, 'Employment, Education and Education', 'Age in Single Years by VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group', 'Persons, Place of Usual Residence'.

^{iv} Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017), 2016 Census, 'Employment, Education and Education', 'Age in Single Years by STATE (UR) and VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group', 'Persons, Place of Usual Residence'.

^v Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017), 2016 Census, 'Employment, Education and Education', 'Age in Single Years by VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group and SEXP Sex', 'Persons, Place of Usual Residence'.

