



## **Volunteering – FAQs - Frequently asked questions**

### **Q: Who is Carers SA?**

A: Carers SA is the statewide 'voice of family carers' representing and providing valued service and support to family carers across the state.

We play a key role in leading change and empowering family carers to participate in a partnership with government and the health and community sectors for the provision of better services, to improve the conditions under which family carers work and to increase the recognition of the contribution of family carers to the South Australian community.

### **Q: What are the benefits of volunteering with Carers SA?**

A: As a volunteer, not only are you giving to the community and making a vital contribution towards reaching Carers SA's goals but you can also reap rewards from your volunteer work. Volunteers gain personal satisfaction, develop social networks, learn new skills, gain work experience and maintain existing skills.

The benefits of volunteering with us are:

- Making a difference in someone's life
- Involvement in services to provide vital support to carers
- Giving back to the community
- Gaining valuable skills
- Having fun!

### **Q: Do I have to be a current or past carer to volunteer?**

A: No – we value the support of our volunteers and welcome anyone in the community who is interested in helping out to become a volunteer with us.

### **Q: What are the locations at which I can volunteer?**

A: Wayville, Royal Park, Berri, Pt Augusta, Pt Lincoln, Mt Gambier and Murray Bridge. Refer: <http://carers-sa.asn.au/about-us/contact-us> for our office locations.

**Q: How do I become a volunteer?**

A: Contact Carers SA (08) 8291 5600 or ask at any of our office locations for more information. We will then send you a Volunteer Application Form and further information about volunteering at Carers SA.

**Q: When can I start Volunteering?**

A: After completing the Volunteer Application Form you may be invited to attend an interview. In the interview you should be ready to answer questions about your previous work experience, both paid and voluntary, discuss your skills and qualifications and provide the names of referees. An offer of volunteer work at Carers SA is subject to legislative requirements, such as police checks. Our application and selection process also aims to ensure that you are a great match for the volunteering role and that the role is right for you. The process may take some time depending on available roles and provision of information.

**Q: Will I receive training whilst volunteering at Carers SA?**

A: Once you have been selected for a volunteer role you will be invited to attend an induction session. In addition to this you will receive on the job training that will familiarise you with the programs and services provided by Carers SA and your role. From time to time there may be other training opportunities available. Additional training opportunities are available through Volunteering SA & NT, refer to their website for further information:

<http://www.volunteeringsa.org.au>

**Q: How much time will I need to commit?**

A: This will depend on the role you are selected for. Generally we encourage volunteers to contribute at least 3 hours each time they volunteer. You will be able to negotiate your hours with your supervisor or the Volunteer Program Coordinator.