

SUMMARY FOR CONSULTATION

A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING FOR RECENT MIGRANTS

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi. *With your basket and my basket the people will thrive.*

Volunteering brings communities together, allowing people to work with and across our differences. Volunteering is time you spend for the benefit of the community without expectation of payment. It is a language of care and aroha. The meaning of volunteering, mahi aroha and social action differs. For Māori (mahi aroha) and Pacific peoples, for example, it is deeply rooted in culture.

Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) has drafted the recent migrant volunteering strategy because we want to improve the experiences of recent migrant volunteers and promote migrant volunteering best practice across the whole sector. The strategy will support the volunteering sector towards inclusive, ethical, and impactful volunteering with recent migrants.

Recent migrants have been in Aotearoa New Zealand for 5 years or less and are here on a permanent or long-term basis (12 months or more). This group includes permanent residents, former refugees and some temporary visa holders, such as long-term students and work visa holders.

Our vision is that:

Recent migrants are able to connect to, engage with, and enrich their communities through meaningful volunteering. Recent migrants have opportunities to participate in inclusive, ethical, and impactful volunteering that is valued and supported by communities and community organisations.

The strategy is underpinned by the core values of *Connect, Engage, Share, and Learn*, each corresponding to a strategic goal:

- Recent migrants are engaged in inclusive, ethical, and impactful volunteering relevant to their skills, needs, and aspirations. **(Connect)**
- Recent migrants build networks and relationships with Volunteer Centres and volunteer-involving organisations, and with their communities. **(Engage)**

- Staff at Volunteer Centres and volunteer-involving organisations have the knowledge and tools to effectively engage, connect, and support recent migrant volunteers. (**Share**)
- The sector is aware of and values the contribution of recent migrant volunteers, and understands their needs and concerns. (**Learn**)

VNZ and Volunteer Centres have been piloting and developing a number of initiatives:

- **Connected Volunteering Model** – Participating Volunteer Centres have been providing additional support and mentoring for recent migrants to connect them with meaningful volunteering opportunities.
- **Information Sharing and Regular Review** – VNZ will facilitate regular information sharing, including the views of recent migrant volunteers, between Volunteer Centres and community organisations to promote migrant volunteering best-practice across the whole sector.
- **Research** – VNZ will continue to support research on barriers for recent migrants engaging in meaningful volunteering, and what can be done to break down these barriers.
- **Success Stories** – VNZ has been collecting case studies to raise awareness about the contribution of recent migrant volunteers.
- **Workshops** – We have supported a series of workshops designed to raise recent migrants' awareness of volunteering opportunities in NZ and support organisations to learn about the experiences, skills, and needs of recent migrants.

The last few weeks have demonstrated the power of volunteering and the need to connect through our differences. Our strategy emphasises the importance of connections. Through participation in meaningful volunteering, recent migrants can have a real opportunity to connect to, engage with, and enrich their communities.

