



V4U Day 2026

Project Partner Guide

23 October 2026



**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

*Student
LIFE*

Message from Adam Shoemaker



I am thrilled to invite you to participate in Victoria University's (VU) nationally acclaimed V4U Day, which has been making a difference in the west since 2011.

At VU, we are committed to shaping a better future that positively impacts the health of people, place and planet. As a university embedded in Melbourne's west, we are proud to work collaboratively to benefit the communities we serve.

V4U Day is an engaging and inclusive way for our students, staff, alumni and partners to form invaluable connections and build their sense of social responsibility by volunteering to help our community. It also celebrates our partnerships with not-for-profit organisations, schools, community groups and local councils. This collaboration enables us to reach over 4,000 individuals in our local communities.

The project has substantial ripple effects, with the benefits extending far beyond the day itself. It creates a strong sense of belonging for our students and staff, and encourages positivity and wellbeing throughout the local community.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to V4U Day on Friday 23 October 2026.

With best wishes,
Adam

Professor Adam Shoemaker
Vice Chancellor & President

A photograph of three students, two men and one woman, standing in front of a door. They are all smiling and holding several small, decorated gift bags. The student on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt with a green and yellow graphic and a black cap. The student in the middle is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with a green and yellow graphic. The student on the right is a man with short brown hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with a green and yellow graphic and a blue lanyard. The word 'Welcome' is written in large, light blue letters across the bottom of the photo.

Welcome

On behalf of Victoria University, we would like to thank you for taking the first step in becoming a Volunteer 4 You (V4U) Day project partner.

V4U Day is an annual, one-day community volunteering event delivered by VU's Student Life & Leadership team.

Held in Semester 2 each year, the day involves students, alumni and staff members taking part in volunteering activities across the Western suburbs of Melbourne. Projects are organised with the Maribyrnong Council, local not-for-profit organisations, schools, community groups and neighbourhood houses. Since V4U Day started in 2011, we have partnered with over 80 organisations in Melbourne's Western suburbs.

V4U Day was honoured to receive the Award of Distinction for Most Successful Event at the 2023 National Student Experience Network Awards and the Most Successful Event award at the 2021 CampusLink Awards.

The event also received the Engagement with Impact award at the 2024 VU Staff Brilliance Awards.

By participating in this event, you will have your project completed with help from our volunteers and help solidify the relationship between VU and the community.

Thank you again and we look forward to working with you in 2026.

The V4U Day team

Get in touch with us today

Phone: +61 3 9919 5084

Email: v4u@vu.edu.au



1,148

**Volunteer hours
contributed**



268

volunteers

(including 183 students, 64 staff, 2 alumni, 19 student Team Leaders)



\$45,770.76*

**in volunteer hours
contributed**



17

**Community
projects**

Our impact in 2025

Feedback from volunteers

95%

satisfied with V4U Day

95%

felt positively
impacted

93%

plan to volunteer more

Feedback from project partners

100%

satisfied with V4U Day

100%

projects completed
with help of volunteers

*Calculated at VU HEP3 casual professional rate of \$39.87 per hour.

Our reach in the West



Organisations we have worked with

- ◆ Angliss Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Ascot Vale Heights School
- ◆ Clean Up Australia
- ◆ Dinjerra Primary School
- ◆ Doutta Galla Aged Services
- ◆ Enactus VU
- ◆ Footscray Community Arts
- ◆ Greenhaven SRS
- ◆ Iramoo Native Plants Nursery
- ◆ Jigsaw Early Learning Centre
- ◆ Sunshine Mosque
- ◆ Sunshine Harvester Primary School
- ◆ Sunshine Primary School
- ◆ West Footscray Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Werribee River Association
- ◆ West Welcome Wagon
- ◆ Yarraville Community Centre

Map not designed to scale. For artistic and representation purposes only.

Feedback from organisations



“V4U Day volunteers' enthusiasm and willingness to participate made a genuine impact. It was a joy to have them with us!”

Jigsaw Early Learning
Sunshine North

“Our garden beds look great with all the new seedlings! Shade cloth also looks great and will help the seedlings.”

Yarraville Community Centre
Yarraville

Feedback from volunteers

“Volunteering on V4U Day was an inspiring opportunity to make a real impact in our community.”

Kelley Mumford

Volunteer in Project 5 – Community House Clean Up

“My heart was full seeing the residents enjoy the walk, smelling the flowers, sharing jokes and laughter.”

Rebecca Xuereb

Volunteer in Project 6 – Doutta Galla Aged Services





V4U Day overview

Purpose

V4U Day is designed to assist you with a project that you have been planning, but may need extra resources to complete.

The purpose of V4U Day is to:

- ◆ Engage VU students to get involved in volunteering and provide them with the opportunity to get a taste of what it is like to make a difference in the west and beyond.
- ◆ Provide VU students with the opportunity to develop skills and extend their network whilst giving back to the community
- ◆ Positively impact the student experience and create a sense of belonging
- ◆ Strengthen VU's relationship with Melbourne's Western suburbs community.

What happens on a V4U Day?

We will recruit volunteers, provide them with their lunch and transport them to and from your project. They will spend approximately 4 hours volunteering as a team to complete your project.

V4U Day is a free community volunteering event. We can also supply tools and equipment to complete your project.

Event overview

- ◆ **Date:** Friday 23 October 2026
- ◆ **Event time:** 9am–5pm
- ◆ **On-site project time:** 10.30am–2.30pm
- ◆ **Number of projects expected:** 20
- ◆ **Project registration closes:** 11:59pm, Sunday 30 August 2026

◆

How to participate in V4U Day

Before you register

1. Think about what project you would like our volunteers to assist you with.

Here are some ideas to help you brainstorm:

- ◆ Assisting with English classes.
- ◆ Art and craft projects.
- ◆ Gardening and other working bee tasks.
- ◆ Facilitating a sports/activity day.
- ◆ Data entry or other administrative tasks.
- ◆ Painting (general and/or decorative).
- ◆ Categorising, pricing and displaying donated goods.
- ◆ Washing and cleaning.

2. Think about the details of your project.

Here are some questions to help you plan your project:

- ◆ How many volunteers do you need?
(a minimum of 10 volunteers are recommended)
- ◆ Do you need the volunteers to possess any particular qualifications or skills?
- ◆ What tasks do you want the volunteers to complete in the allocated project time (four hours, including briefing, break, and debriefing)?
- ◆ Are there any risks associated with the volunteering tasks?
- ◆ What is the desired outcome of your project?
- ◆ What tools or equipment do you need for your project?

If you need help planning or developing your project, feel free to contact the V4U Day team – we will be happy to provide ideas, suggestions, and help.

Register your project

After deciding on your project, you can register it with us by completing the online Project Registration form.

After you register

We will contact you to confirm more details, arrange a time to visit you, inform you whether we would like to proceed with your project, and provide you with further instructions and assistance.



What you can expect from us

Volunteers

We will recruit volunteers, transport them to and from your project and provide them with a V4U Day t-shirt, hat and lunch (you are more than welcome to provide volunteers with additional food and drink). We will also issue them a certificate of appreciation after the event.

Team Leaders

We will recruit and train Team Leaders for your project. We will allocate approximately one Team Leader for every 15 volunteers. The Team Leader will be your main point of contact on V4U Day. They will assist you by communicating with the volunteers to ensure your project is completed.

Tools and equipment

We can supply tools and equipment provided our volunteers can bring them back after finishing their tasks. For example, we can provide paint brushes for your painting project, but not the paint.

After you submit your project registration, we will contact you to confirm whether we will be able to provide the tools or equipment you requested.

Costs and Fees

V4U Day is a free community volunteering event. VU covers the volunteer's expenses including their V4U Day T-shirt and hat, lunch pack and transportation to and from project locations. We can also supply tools and equipment to complete your project.

What will happen on V4U Day

Schedule*

- ◆ **8.30–9.30am**
Volunteers arrive at VU Footscray Park campus.
- ◆ **9.30–10.30am**
Volunteers are transported to their assigned project.
- ◆ **10.30am–2.30pm**
On-site Project time – Volunteers complete volunteering tasks at your organisation.
- ◆ **2.30–3pm**
Volunteers are transported back to Footscray Park campus for a post-event celebration.

*Please note that the above timetable should be used as a guide and is subject to change.



After V4U Day

Enjoy the outcomes that our volunteers have made to your project.

Also, please complete a short feedback survey to let us know your experience with the event and what we can do improve V4U Day 2025!

Contact us

Phone: +61 3 9919 5084

Email: v4u@vu.edu.au



From the organisations

“great bunch of students who got to work quickly and followed instructions to the T. And best part we got the whole area mulched. Thanks for all your help once again. We love having you every year”

Kylie Kirk

Dinjerra Primary School – Braybrook

“We absolutely loved every part of this process. It was easy and simple, and the volunteers on the day were amazing! So enthusiastic and helpful.”

Feona Wadsworth

Big Group Hug - Tarneit

Testimonials

From the volunteers

“Volunteering at V4U Day has helped me formed new and meaningful connections with other volunteers and community members.”

Quinn Dao

Volunteered at
West Footscray Neighborhood House

“Amazing day! Amazing leader and team. I loved giving back to the local residents at the aged care facility!”

Melanie K.

Volunteered at
Doutta Galla Aged Services

“I was thoroughly satisfied with every aspect of V4U Day. As it was my first time participating in such a large event, I wasn't sure what to expect, but everything exceeded my expectations”

Ngoc Thang Tong

Volunteered at Werribee River Association



We look forward to working with you.

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