Volunteering at Western District Health Service can provide a variety of benefits, including:

**Community involvement:** become more involved in your community and connect with others who share similar interests and goals.

**Improved health and wellbeing:** volunteering can have positive effects on physical and mental health, including reducing stress, increasing happiness, and improving overall wellbeing.

**Networking:** meet and work with healthcare professionals, which can help you build a network of contacts for future job or educational opportunities.

**Personal growth:** volunteering can be a challenging and rewarding experience that can help you grow personally and gain new perspectives on life.

**Sense of purpose:** contribute to your community and make a positive impact on the lives of others. This can give you a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

**Skill development:** develop new skills or improve existing ones.

# Volunteer Services Tel: (03) 5551 8457

Western District Health Service incorporating:Coleraine District Health ServiceFrances Hewett Community CentreGrange Residential Care ServiceThe Birches Residential CarePO Box 24Hamilton Base HospitalHamiltonPenshurst & District Health ServicePh: (03) 5Youth ServicesFax: (03) 1Merino Community Health CentreEmail: centreNational Centre for Farmer HealthInternet:

PO Box 283 Hamilton VIC 3300 Ph: (03) 5551 8222 Fax: (03) 5571 9584 Email: ceo@wdhs.net Internet: www.wdhs.net



# Volunteer Program



# www.wdhs.net

With Superior Creating

Creating Australia's Healthiest Rural Community

This material has been developed in partnership with consumers. Reprinted May 2023 wdhs Western District Health Service

eating Australia's Healthiest Rural Community

# Why volunteer for WDHS?

Volunteers are ordinary people who make an extraordinary contribution to our health service. They bring a range of skills, knowledge and life experience to the health service that complements the expertise of our staff.

Volunteering provides the opportunity for you to meet new people while learning new skills or enhancing the skills you already have.

#### Who volunteers?

Volunteers come from all age groups. Men, women, young people and older people are all encouraged to participate. Their roles are designed to complement our paid staff, but not replace them. Volunteers in WDHS Auxiliaries and community groups also provide wonderful support for our health service.

#### How do volunteers help?

Our volunteers may work indoors or outdoors, one-to-one, or with groups. Whether you are available weekdays or weekends, weekly, monthly or just occasionally, there will be a place for you and we will value your contribution.

Although volunteering receives no monetary payment, it is both rewarding and satisfying and benefits our patients, residents, clients and community. WDHS has a variety of areas that need volunteers, including:

- Auxiliaries
- Coleraine District Health Service
- Community Transport Hamilton
  - Coleraine
  - Merino
- Fundraising & Events
- Grange Residential Care Service
- Healthy Leg Club
- Hospital Opportunity Shop
- Meals on Wheels
- Palliative Care
- Penshurst & District Health Service
- Social Support Group
- Surgical, Medical, Theatre and Emergency Departments
- The Birches Residential Care

# **Expectations**

We expect our volunteers to be reliable, committed to the organisation, to maintain confidentiality at all times and to be of neat and tidy appearance. Volunteers are required to attend all necessary training sessions, ask for support when it is needed, and support other members of the health team in which they participate. Volunteers can expect that WDHS will provide insurance cover, appropriate orientation and training, a safe environment in which to work, and will reimburse volunteers for any approved out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Volunteers have the right to say 'no' to unsuitable tasks, will be recognised as a valued member of the health team and will be supported and guided in their roles at all times.

# How to become a volunteer

Upon request, application forms will be sent for you to complete. Informal interviews are conducted with prospective volunteers to identify the volunteer's areas of interest, and to ensure that we select the right volunteer for the right job.

A mandatory requirement of volunteering at WDHS is that all applicants agree to a confidential police check, which will be paid for by WDHS.

If you are interested in volunteering at WDHS and would like more information, please telephone Volunteer Services, between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

> Contact: Volunteer Services Tel: (03) 5551 8457