



AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ALUMNI 2025 SURVEY REPORT

Contents

Background	2
Alumni Objectives	2
Survey Objectives	2
Value Volunteering	3
Survey responses	3
Suggestions	3
Alumni response	3
Cultural Awareness and Connections across Countries	4
Survey responses	4
Suggestions	4
Alumni response	4
Professional and Personal Development	4
Survey responses	4
Suggestions	5
Alumni response	5
Alumni engagement in previous 12 months	5
Alumni response	5
Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn Groups	6
Next steps	6
Appendix 1: 2023 and 2025 Alumni survey results comparison	7

Background

The Australian Volunteers Program Alumni (Alumni) connects past volunteers with each other and helps volunteers maintain a connection with the Australian Volunteers Program.

The network currently consists of over 7,000 Australians who have volunteered overseas or remotely, under Australian Government-funded overseas volunteering programs, across more than eighty countries over more than 65 years.

In 2022 a new name, strategy and branding for the Australian Volunteers Program Alumni was introduced and in 2023 the first Alumni survey was conducted.

In May 2025 the second Alumni survey was conducted to gain insights about alumni experiences and to gather insights on the network objectives.

259 past volunteers (54% female and 45% male) responded to the survey in 2025, the total response rate was lower than the response rate for the previous Alumni survey in 2023.

224 (91.1%) respondents completed an in-country assignment, 46 (18.7%) respondents completed a remote assignment, 24 (9.8%) respondents completed a hybrid assignment.

6.9%, or 17 people, identified as someone with a disability and 2 people identified as Aboriginal.

Alumni Objectives

The Alumni Strategy (2022-2027) sets out the Alumni objectives to:

- Support past volunteers to advocate for the program and increase awareness and appreciation of the **value of volunteering**.
- Provide past volunteers opportunities to increase **cultural awareness** and maintain **connections across countries**.
- Provide **professional and personal development opportunities** to Alumni members

Survey Objectives

The objectives of the 2025 Alumni Survey were to:

- Capture Alumni objectives data
- Capture Alumni engagement data
- Gather suggestions on how the network can add value to the program and key stakeholders

Value Volunteering

Survey responses

- **62%** of respondents were involved in volunteering activities outside of the Alumni in the previous 12 months
- **50%** of respondents had promoted the program and/or program assignments with their networks
- **4%** of respondents identified that the Alumni supported them to become involved in local volunteering activities in Australia

Suggestions

- Promote local volunteer opportunities in Australia via Alumni communications
- Facilitate ways for members of the Alumni to help recruit new volunteers
- Encourage sharing of volunteer experiences with personal and professional networks

Alumni response

Past volunteers are recognised to be the best advocates for the program and most effective at recruiting new volunteers.

The number of respondents (50%) who identified having promoted the program increased by 5% compared to 2021 Alumni survey results. The Alumni network will continue to provide opportunities for past volunteers to promote the program.

Although only 4% of respondents identified that the Alumni supported them to become involved in local volunteering activities in Australia, this reflects a slight increase from the 2023 results.

62% of respondents identified involvement in volunteering activities. This demonstrates a strong motivation among past volunteers to continue engaging in volunteering activities in their local communities.

The Alumni will continue to offer opportunities for past volunteers to volunteer with the program and promote local volunteering activities. Alumni resources will be developed to support past volunteers help to promote the Australian Volunteers Program.

Cultural Awareness and Connections across Countries

Survey responses

- **81%** of respondents have maintained connections with people they met while on assignment
- **41%** of respondents have continued to provide support to their previous partner organisation following their assignment
- **25%** of respondents reported that their connection to another country has increased through participation in Alumni activities
- **31%** of respondents identified an increased cultural awareness via involvement in Alumni activities
- **19%** of respondent's relationships with their previous partner organisation was supported by Alumni activities

Suggestions

- Continue to deliver culturally specific Alumni events both online and in-person
- Deliver country specific events with past volunteers who completed assignments with the same partner countries
- Promote cultural festivals and events with alumni
- Support ongoing volunteering with country of assignment
- Promote the different ways alumni have continued to support their partner organisation following their assignment

Alumni response

All suggestions for how the Alumni can support cultural awareness and connections to other countries will be explored.

Some suggested activities are currently available through the Alumni, including:

- Culturally specific events: currently delivered through collaborations with Australian Award scholars (Alumni & Australian Awards Networking events)
- Promotion of ongoing alumni support to partner organisations: currently facilitated through alumni speaking engagements and across program social content and published program stories

Professional and Personal Development

Survey responses

- **25%** of respondents felt their professional development has been supported a lot or slightly by the Alumni which is consistent with 2023 survey results
- **35%** of respondents felt their personal development has been supported a lot or slightly by the Alumni, this reflects a 5% increase from the 2023 survey results
- Professional development benefits gained via the Alumni include increased cultural awareness, opportunities to volunteer as Alumni Facilitators to support volunteers at Post Assignment Workshops and opportunities to volunteers as Alumni Representatives
- Personal development benefits gained via the Alumni include friendships with fellow alumni, feeling connected to the Alumni community through reading volunteer stories and newsletters and by sharing personal volunteer stories at events

Suggestions

- Share country specific stories and updates
- Provide opportunities for members of the Alumni to present about volunteering experience
- Support alumni to make submissions about their volunteer experiences to professional papers and publications

Alumni response

Many respondents identified their most significant professional and personal benefits were gained while on assignment rather than through participation in Alumni activities. Some respondents expressed a belief that it is not the role of the Alumni to support their personal and professional development.

Some of the survey suggestions are currently available to members of the Alumni including sector-based Communities of Practice and opportunities for Alumni to present about volunteering experience (Global Webinar Series, Program Information Sessions and Alumni Representative and Program Events).

Resources will be developed to further support alumni share their volunteer experiences and stories. This will be possible through both program opportunities and external opportunities such as conferences and general media publications.

Alumni engagement in previous 12 months

Some of the ways members of the Alumni continue to engage with the program and the network following their assignments:

- Volunteering as Alumni Representatives and Alumni Facilitators
- Attending Alumni events
- Reading the Alumni newsletter
- Engaging with the Alumni Facebook or LinkedIn groups

Survey respondents were asked for reasons they had not engaged in an Alumni activity in the previous 12 months. The reasons provided included:

- Distance required to attend events due to living regionally or overseas
- Time constraints
- Unaware of Alumni activities or events
- Do not use social media
- Cost of attending events
- Health constraints

Alumni response

It is helpful to understand the reasons people have not engaged in activities. Survey responses reflect a desire from past volunteers to attend online and in-person activities across different days, locations and times.

While it will never be possible to achieve 100% engagement with all past volunteers, it is beneficial to consider methods to help increase engagement and remove barriers to Alumni activities.

Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn Groups

- **36.1%** of respondents have joined the Alumni Facebook group, this reflects a decrease from 54% of respondents in 2023
- **16%** of respondents have joined the Alumni LinkedIn group, this is consistent with respondents in 2023

Reasons for not joining Alumni social media groups include people not using social media, ethical objections to social media and not knowing the groups exist. The Alumni will continue to share information via other communications channels including, the Alumni Newsletter, direct emails and on the Australian Volunteers Program website.

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who contributed their ideas and shared their experiences with the Alumni. Your contributions are highly valued and appreciated.

These survey results will help to inform the ongoing work of the Alumni network. The survey results will be shared with the Alumni Representative team, program staff and the wider Alumni network.

Members of the Alumni will continue to have opportunities to contribute to the development of the network and program.

Appendix 1: 2023 and 2025 Alumni survey results comparison

2023 Alumni Survey	2025 Alumni Survey
<p>642 volunteers responded to the survey</p> <p>66% females and 33% males</p> <p>1% prefer to self-describe</p>	<p>259 volunteers responded to the survey</p> <p>55% females and 45% males</p> <p>0.8% prefer to self-describe</p>
<p>Top 5 countries respondents volunteered in</p> <p>Indonesia; Vietnam; Papua New Guinea; Timor Leste; Solomon Islands</p>	<p>Top 5 countries respondents volunteered in</p> <p>Indonesia; Papua New Guinea; Cambodia; Vietnam; Fiji</p>
<p>74.8% of respondents didn't engage in an Alumni activity in the past 12 months</p>	<p>73% of respondents didn't engage in an Alumni activity in the past 12 months</p>