



VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

VOLUNTEER ROLE	Social Activity Companion
PROGRAM	Social Connections
DIRECTORATE	Aged Care
REPORTS TO	Program Lead
VOLUNTEER HOURS	2-3 hours, morning and/or afternoon, 1-3 times per week

ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE

The Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) is a social justice organisation working to prevent and alleviate poverty across Australia.

We believe no one should live in poverty. Our mission is to pursue lasting change, to create a more compassionate and just society where everyone can thrive.

We think differently and take a unique approach to address the fundamental causes of poverty in our community. Our approach is informed directly by the people experiencing disadvantage and uses evidence drawn from our research, together with insights from our programs and services, to develop practical solutions that work. We create programs which prevent and alleviate poverty during four key life transitions: childhood, adolescence, midlife and retirement.

We also believe change can only happen when people work together, which is why partnerships with the broader community and organisations are a cornerstone of BSL.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

BSL Social Connections hubs and programs offer various social, re-ablement, and creative wellness programs for clients from local communities. We provide a warm, welcoming and safe place for clients to visit to socialise, enjoy the company of others, and if they chose, attend programs and join in group activities and outings.

ROLE PURPOSE and IMPACT

In the Social Activity Companion role, you will help bring some joy through companionship. Volunteering even a small amount of time for connection and companionship can have an enormous and direct impact on the lives of others. As a volunteer in this role, you will provide enriching company for clients who will benefit from someone dedicating time to spend with them. You might sit and chat with them, watch a program or do an activity with them. Providing companionship and conversation can boost clients' wellbeing through social engagement.

ROLE ACTIVITIES - What you will do:

In this volunteer role you will support client's wellbeing through the following activities:

- Spending dedicated time and providing companionship to clients
- Engaging clients in good conversation
- Assisting clients with participating in activities if they wish
- Assisting staff and clients with group outings and events

Depending on your experience, skills and training, your supervisor might ask you to undertake other tasks relevant to this role's purpose.

SUITABILITY - We're looking for volunteers who:

- Enjoy socialising and engaging and talking with all sorts of people
- Really LOVE to have a chat!
- Have a genuine interest in working with and supporting older people
- Have well-developed and adaptable interpersonal and communication skills
- Have a high level of patience, compassion and an understanding of challenges related to aging
- Are able to remain calm and patient around varying behaviours
- Have the ability to work well with others and take direction from staff
- Are willing to understand and uphold the values and ideals of the Brotherhood.

CONDITIONS OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

1. This role requires both police and working with children checks. Your volunteer role will not begin until the necessary checks are complete.
2. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, some programs (including Aged Care and NDIS) require all workers to be fully vaccinated (or have a medical exemption) prior to engaging in a face-to-face role.
3. Volunteers must take responsibility for their own and others' workplace health and safety and to adhere to policies which keep the Brotherhood of St. Laurence a workplace committed to equal opportunity, free from discrimination and harassment.
4. All BSL volunteers must be eligible to volunteer in Australia.

AGREEMENTS

I understand that I am a volunteer who contributes my time and effort without expectation of remuneration.

I understand that as a volunteer I must adhere to Brotherhood of St. Laurence (BSL) policies and procedures. I have read BSL's **Code of Conduct** and **Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy** and agree to abide by these policies during my time with BSL.

In the event of injury sustained in performing my volunteer role I understand that I can make a claim against the Brotherhood of St. Laurence's insurance policy for 85% of my non-Medicare costs up to the relevant policy maximums. Activities taken on my own initiative outside of this role are at my own risk.

I will keep all personal or sensitive information about customers and participants, other volunteers and the BSL team in the strictest confidence by only discussing such details within the bounds necessary to undertake my duties and responsibilities as a volunteer with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

I have read the above conditions of volunteering with BSL and agree to act in accordance with this agreement.

Volunteer Name: _____

Volunteer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor Name: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____