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Volunteers and volunteering during the COVID-era in Australia

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Professor Nicholas Biddle,¹ and Professor Matthew Gray,¹

1 ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

Australian National University

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Extended Abstract

In 2021 the Federal Government announced the development of a National Strategy for Volunteering with the design of this strategy being led by Volunteering Australia. The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods is undertaking research to support the development of the strategy, with this paper focusing on the changes to volunteering and volunteers that have occurred over the COVID-19 period. The paper is based on the April 2022 ANUpoll survey, that collected data from 3,587 Australians aged 18 years and over, as well as data from April 2020 and 2021.

We show lower rates of volunteering than prior to the pandemic, albeit with some increases since April 2021. There is some evidence that this decline in volunteering has led to a reduction in wellbeing, with those who say they stopped volunteering due to COVID-19 but who had not started again by April 2022 having far lower levels of wellbeing than those who had maintained their volunteering over the period. Furthermore, the vast majority of volunteers (more than nine-in-ten) were either satisfied (53.1 per cent) or very satisfied (37.9 per cent) with their volunteering experience.

One of the focuses of the paper was on variation in volunteering across the population as Australia enters the COVID-recovery period. Females were more likely to volunteer than males and older Australians (those aged 55 years and over) were more likely to have volunteered than younger Australians. Those born overseas in a non-English speaking country are less likely to volunteer than those born in Australia or those born overseas in another English-speaking country. Compared to those who have completed Year 12, those who have not completed Year 12 have a lower probability of volunteering compared to those who have no post-school qualifications, those who have a degree have a higher probability. There was also an association with hours worked, with those who worked 1-10 hours in the preceding week more likely to have undertaken voluntary work compared to those who did not work at all and those who worked more hours per week.

The paper also looks at the reasons people give for why Australians did and did not undertake volunteering in the previous 12 months. When asked 'What were your reasons for being a volunteer?', the most common reason given was 'Personal satisfaction / to do something worthwhile', given by 71.9 per cent of volunteers, with more than half of volunteers also saying that they did so to 'Help others / the community.' When asked 'What are all the reasons that you have not formally volunteered for an organisation or group in the last 12 months?' the most common reason given was work/family commitments, given by 40.8 per cent of Australians.

Formal volunteering is not the only way people contribute to their communities and a little under half of adult Australians (46.5 per cent) said that they provided some form of informal volunteering outside of their household over the previous four weeks. The most common form of informal volunteering was providing emotional support (provided by 20.4 per cent of Australians), followed by providing transport or running errands (19.1 per cent), and domestic work, home maintenance or gardening (16.8 per cent).

1 Introduction and overview

The COVID-19 pandemic was one of the largest and most wide-ranging shocks to the Australian economic, social, and political systems in living memory. Although other countries were impacted to a greater degree in terms of infections, hospitalisations, and mortality, the lower health impact in Australia was achieved by the effective closure of Australia's international borders. What's more, at many points during the pandemic, state/territory borders were also closed for almost all travellers. Large sections of the economy were shut down and hours of paid work declined, particularly for those who were not able to keep working from home.

The total hours worked in paid employment are now above the number of hours worked pre-pandemic.¹ However, while there has been a great deal of policy and other focus on the reduction in the hours of paid work and subsequent recovery, much less attention has been paid and importance given to the impacts of the pandemic on volunteering, which in this paper we define as 'time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.'²

Data collected in April 2020 and April 2021 by the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods in conjunction with Volunteering Australia showed that during the pandemic the number of hours spent volunteering was well below what it was pre-pandemic (Biddle and Gray 2020; 2021) and as will be shown in this paper, volunteering has been slow to recover since. Even prior to the pandemic, there had been a long-term (though less dramatic) decline in the proportion of Australians undertaking volunteering at a given point in time. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare using data from the General Social Survey, the proportion of Australians who volunteered in the previous 12 months declined from 34.1 per cent in 2006 to 28.8 per cent in 2019.³

These declines are important to respond to as volunteering has been shown to contribute directly to the Australian economy, with volunteers often engaging in sectors and activities that are not well supported by government or the market (Kragt and Holtrop 2019). Volunteering has also been shown to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of volunteers (Van Willigen 2000), providing a sense of meaning and satisfaction, as well as social interaction in addition to or instead of the social interaction that often occurs in paid work.

The impacts of COVID-19 on volunteering are likely to have been greater for vulnerable groups. In a review article, Grotz et al. (2020) concluded that 'The abrupt cessation of volunteering activities of and for older people because of the COVID-19 pandemic is highly likely to have negative health and wellbeing effects on older adults with long-term and far-reaching policy implications.'

At the same time as these declines have been occurring, it is also important to recognise that many Australians have been able to maintain their volunteering, and there have also been new opportunities and new demands. The pandemic has made remote work more accessible and effective, accelerating pre-pandemic trends. There have also been new demands that have arisen (Bazan et al. 2021) for example to support the delivery of vaccine programs or the 2019/20 Bushfires and more recent flooding on the east coast of Australia increasing the need for disaster relief and recovery services.

Understanding the effects of COVID-19 on volunteering and volunteers and other changes that have occurred over the period is of vital importance to Australian policy formulation. In 2021 the development of a National Strategy for Volunteering was announced (by the Federal Government) with the design of this strategy being led by Volunteering Australia. This strategy

will be developed over 12 months (having commenced in January 2022) with a series of research reports studying different aspects of volunteering in Australia. The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods is undertaking part of this research, exploring the perspective of volunteers and non-volunteers. This paper is the first research output from that larger body of research and focuses on the changes that have occurred over the COVID-19 period, bringing our understanding of the current state of volunteering up to date (to April 2022) and starting to identify the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 on volunteering.

Estimating the change in the level, nature, and distribution of volunteer work requires high quality data. To undertake such an analysis, we make use of a unique set of data collected as part of the ANUpoll series, which since April 2020 has incorporated the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods Impact Monitoring Series.⁴ Surveys have also been conducted with the same group of respondents since January and February 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic started in Australia.⁵ This allows us to track outcomes for the same group of individuals from just prior to COVID-19 impacting Australia through to two-and-a-bit years since COVID-19 first reached Australia.

The April 2022 survey collected data from 3,587 Australians aged 18 years and over. The survey data is available for download through the Australian Data Archive. Details on the survey are available in Appendix 1. The April 2020 and April 2021 surveys also included questions on volunteering. Of those respondents who completed the April 2022 survey, 62.6 per cent had completed the April 2021, and 57.8 per cent had completed the April 2020 survey (our first COVID-19 Impact Monitoring survey).

To present these initial findings on volunteers and volunteering, the remainder of the paper is structured as follows. In the next section we look at levels of formal volunteering, how rates of volunteering have changed through time, and how they are distributed across key demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic groups. Section 3 then considers the number of hours spent volunteering, with Section 4 looking at the reasons given for volunteering or not volunteering. In Section 5, we turn our attention to informal volunteering, with Section 6 providing some concluding comments.

2 How many and who volunteers?

In the April 2022 Survey, the first question in the volunteering module was ‘Over the last 12 months did you spend any time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group?’ The following note was given to respondents (italics in original) *‘Please include voluntary work for sporting teams, youth groups, schools, or religious organisations. Please exclude work in a family business or paid employment. Please exclude work to qualify for a government benefit or to obtain an educational qualification or due to a community / court order.’* This question was also asked of respondents towards the end of 2019 (i.e., pre-COVID).

2.1 Levels of volunteering during the COVID-19 period

It is estimated that in the 12-months preceding the April 2022 survey, 26.7 per cent of adult Australians undertook volunteer work. This was a slight increase from April 2021, when it was estimated that 24.2 per cent of Australians undertook volunteer work in the preceding 12-months. However, rates of volunteering are still much lower than the 12-months preceding late 2019 (i.e., pre-COVID) when 36.0 per cent of adults were estimated to have undertaken volunteer work.

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Those who had not volunteered in the previous 12-months were asked 'Did you do any voluntary work prior to the last 12 months?' Of those in April who had not volunteered in the previous 12-months, 76.8 per cent said that they had not done any volunteer work prior to the last 12-months, with 19.8 per cent saying that they had done a little and 3.5 per cent saying that they had done a lot.

The second question asked in the April 2022 volunteering module was 'In the last 12 months, have you done more or less voluntary work than you did previously?' This question was asked only of those who said they had volunteered in the prior 12-months. Based on this question, 28.4 per cent of volunteers feel that they have increased the amount of volunteering they did, 31.7 per cent feel that the amount of volunteering they have done has not changed, and 40.0 per cent feel that their volunteering has decreased.

Prior to the volunteering module respondents were asked a set of questions about the direct impact of COVID-19 on them. Specifically, the questionnaire started with the following introduction: 'We are now going to ask you some questions about any changes you have made to your life since the start of the spread of COVID-19...**Since February 2020**, have you undertaken any of the following precautions to minimise COVID-19 transmission?' [bold in original].

One of the impacts we asked about was whether respondents 'Stopped volunteering or other unpaid work.' Highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on volunteering, almost a quarter of respondents (22.6 per cent) said that at some stage they stopped volunteering. Of those who said they had stopped volunteering at some stage, only 38.0 per cent had volunteered in the 12-months leading up to April 2022, with the remainder presumably not having returned. This is a very large proportion of Australians who stopped volunteering due to COVID-19 but have not yet recommenced. When combined with the high proportion of volunteers who had reduced the amount of time spent volunteering, there is clearly a large gap in the volunteer workforce and the delivery of services by volunteers.

2.2 Volunteering and wellbeing

This drop in volunteering is not only important for the services that volunteers provide, but we can also see some potential impacts on the volunteers themselves. Consider the measure of life satisfaction that we have been asking respondents since prior to the pandemic, framed as follows: 'The following question asks how satisfied you feel about life in general, on a scale from 0 to 10. Zero means you feel 'not at all satisfied' and 10 means 'completely satisfied'. Overall, how satisfied are you with life as a whole these days?'

The average life satisfaction value for Australian adults in April 2022 was 6.69 (lower than prior to the pandemic, but higher than during the lockdown periods). However, there are very different results depending on a person's volunteer experience. For those who had volunteered in April 2022 and said they had not stopped volunteering during the COVID-19 period, average life satisfaction was 6.95. At the other extreme, those who had said they had stopped volunteering due to COVID-19 and were not volunteering as of April 2022, average life satisfaction was only 6.34. This difference of 0.61 is roughly equivalent to one-third of a standard deviation (0.323) of the population. Those Australians that had not stopped volunteering and were not volunteers in April 2022 and those who had stopped volunteering but returned to volunteering by April 2022 had life satisfaction values that were somewhere in between these extremes (6.69 and 6.75 respectively). Causal inference is difficult to establish

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with observational data, but these results strongly suggest that the interruption in volunteering has impacted on the wellbeing of potential volunteers.

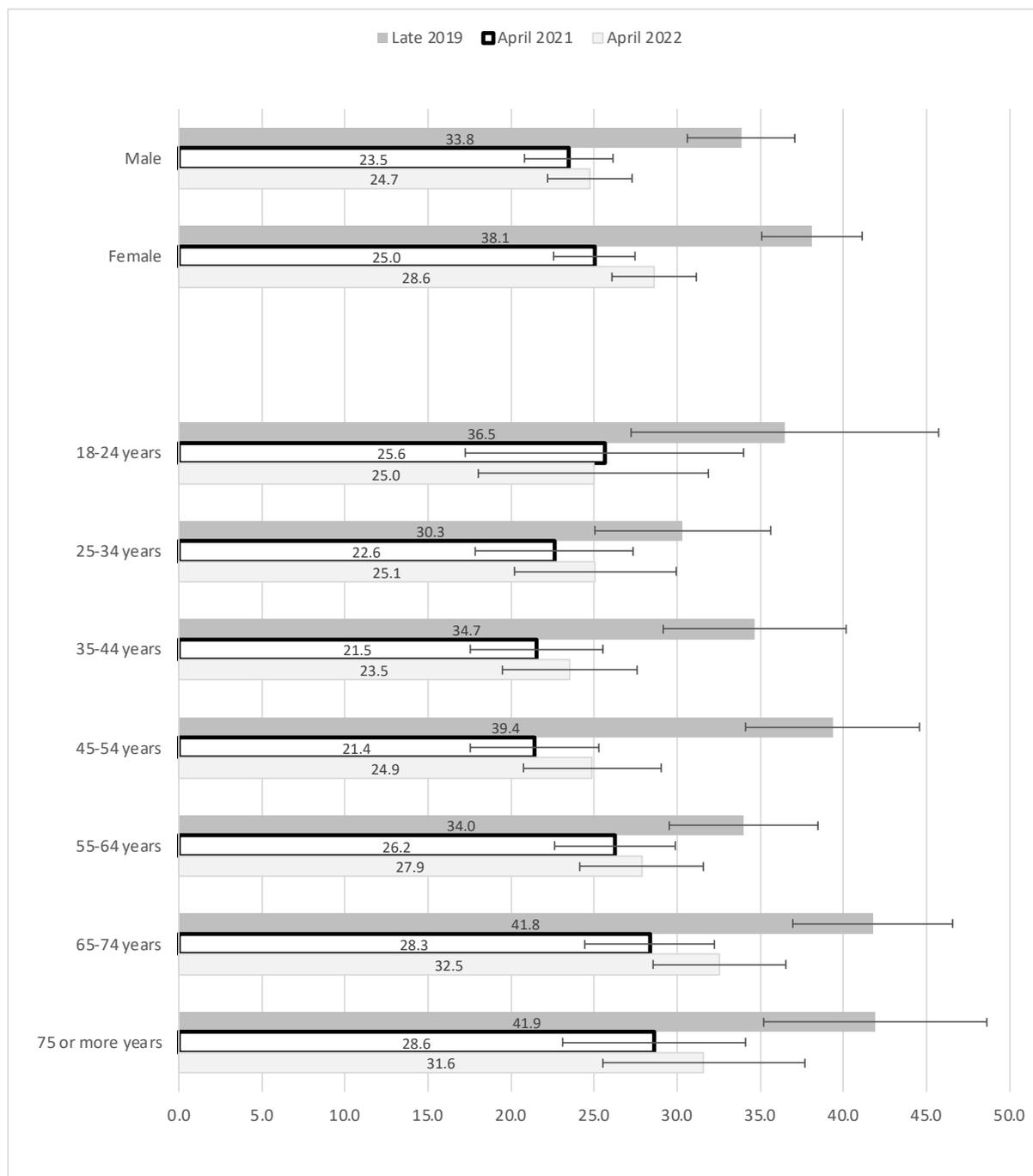
2.3 Variation in volunteering across demographic groups

Figure 1 gives the rates of volunteering by sex and age group in late 2019 (pre-COVID-19), April 2021, and April 2022. For each point in time, females were more likely to volunteer than males and older Australians (those aged 55 years and over) were more likely to have volunteered than younger Australians (aged 18 to 54 years).

The rate of volunteering fell between late 2019 and April 2021 for both men and women and for all age groups. For both men and women and all age groups there was either no change or a small increase in volunteering rates between April 2021 and April 2022. For none of the age groups had the rate of volunteering in April 2022 recovered to its pre COVID-19 rate of late 2019.

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Figure 1 Per cent of Australians who undertook volunteering in the preceding 12-months, by age and sex, late 2019, April 2021, and April 2022



Note: The “whiskers” on the bars indicate the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimate.

Source: ANUpoll, April 2020, April 2021, and April 2022.

In order to understand the factors associated with volunteered in the 12 months preceding April 2022, a regression model is used. This allows the effects of individuals’ characteristics on the likelihood of them being a volunteer to be estimated holding constant the impacts of other variables. Given that the dependent variable is a binary variable (volunteer/non-volunteer) a probit regression model is estimated.

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Two models are estimated (results reported in Table A1). The first model includes as explanatory variables a core set of demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic characteristics. The second model adds to the explanatory variables included in Model 1 whether or not a person is employed, and the number of hours in paid employment with a quadratic specification in order to allow for a non-linear relationship. Controlling for age and sex, those born overseas in a non-English speaking country are less likely to volunteer than those born in Australia or those born overseas in another English-speaking country.

Education is also associated with the probability of volunteering. Compared to those who have completed Year 12, those who have not completed Year 12 have a lower probability. Compared to those who have no post-school qualifications, those who have a degree (bachelor or post-graduate) have a higher probability.

There are no differences in rates of volunteering by the socioeconomic characteristics of the area in which a person lives. However, those who live outside of a capital city have a higher volunteering rate, compared to those who live in a capital city.

The results from the second model show a very non-linear relationship between volunteering and paid work. The results show a higher probability of volunteer work for those employed compared to those not employed on average, but a lower probability of having undertaken volunteer work as the number of hours in paid employment increases. We can see these differences with some relatively straight forward descriptive statistics. Although we do not have employment information over the full 12-months that the volunteering question refers to, even the most recent employment data is predictive. For those who were not employed at all at the time of the survey, 29.7 per cent had volunteered in the previous 12-months. For those who worked 1 to 10 hours in the week preceding the survey, 50.0 per cent undertook volunteer work in the previous 12-months. For those who worked more than 10 hours in the preceding week, but less than a full-time load (i.e., less than 35 hours per week), 27.1 per cent undertook volunteering in the previous 12-months. For those who worked 35 hours or more per week, only 21.4 per cent undertook any volunteer work.

3 Time spent volunteering

When asked about the number of weeks that a person spent volunteering in the previous 12-months, the average for those who did volunteer was 24.5 weeks. When asked for the number of hours on average that a person spent volunteering per week (in a normal week they spent volunteering), the average was 6.8 hours. Combined, this gives 180 hours on average across the year for volunteers, or 45.8 hours when we include non-volunteers on the denominator.

Focusing on those who had volunteered for at least one hour over the previous 12-months again, there was a very skewed distribution of volunteering. The median number of hours was 80, far less than the mean. While there was a moderate proportion of volunteers (12.4 per cent) who volunteered for less than 10 hours over the previous 12-months, there were a number of volunteers who reported a very large number of hours, with 31.3 per cent of volunteers having worked 200 hours or more and 10 per cent of volunteers reporting 450 hours or more in total over the previous 12-months.

Using the same explanatory variables described in the previous section, we estimate an ordinary least squares regression of the total hours estimated to have been spent on volunteering (amongst volunteers), which finds only a few variables that were statistically significant (Table A2).

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Older volunteers (those aged 55 years and over) spent more time volunteering than those aged 54 years or under, and those who were born overseas in a non-English speaking country volunteered for fewer hours.

Although the sample size is small and therefore the coefficient is estimated with imprecision (and is therefore not statistically significant), there is weak evidence that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people volunteered for more hours on average over the preceding year compared to the non-Indigenous population.

Looking forward, those who had volunteered over the previous 12-months were asked 'In the next five years, do you see yourself volunteering more or less frequently than the last 12 months.' The most common response was for the person to say that they would do about the same amount, given by 50.8 per cent of volunteers.

Only 20.2 per cent of volunteers said that they are likely to volunteer less frequently (5.1 per cent much less and 15.0 per cent simply 'less frequently'). This leaves 29.1 per cent of volunteers who feel they will volunteer more frequently over the next 5 years (5.2 per cent much more frequently, 23.9 per cent simply more frequently). While this will likely represent a slight increase in hours of volunteering, the net difference between those who say they would volunteer more compared to those who say they would volunteer less does not seem likely to lead to a return to the level of volunteering seen pre-Covid.

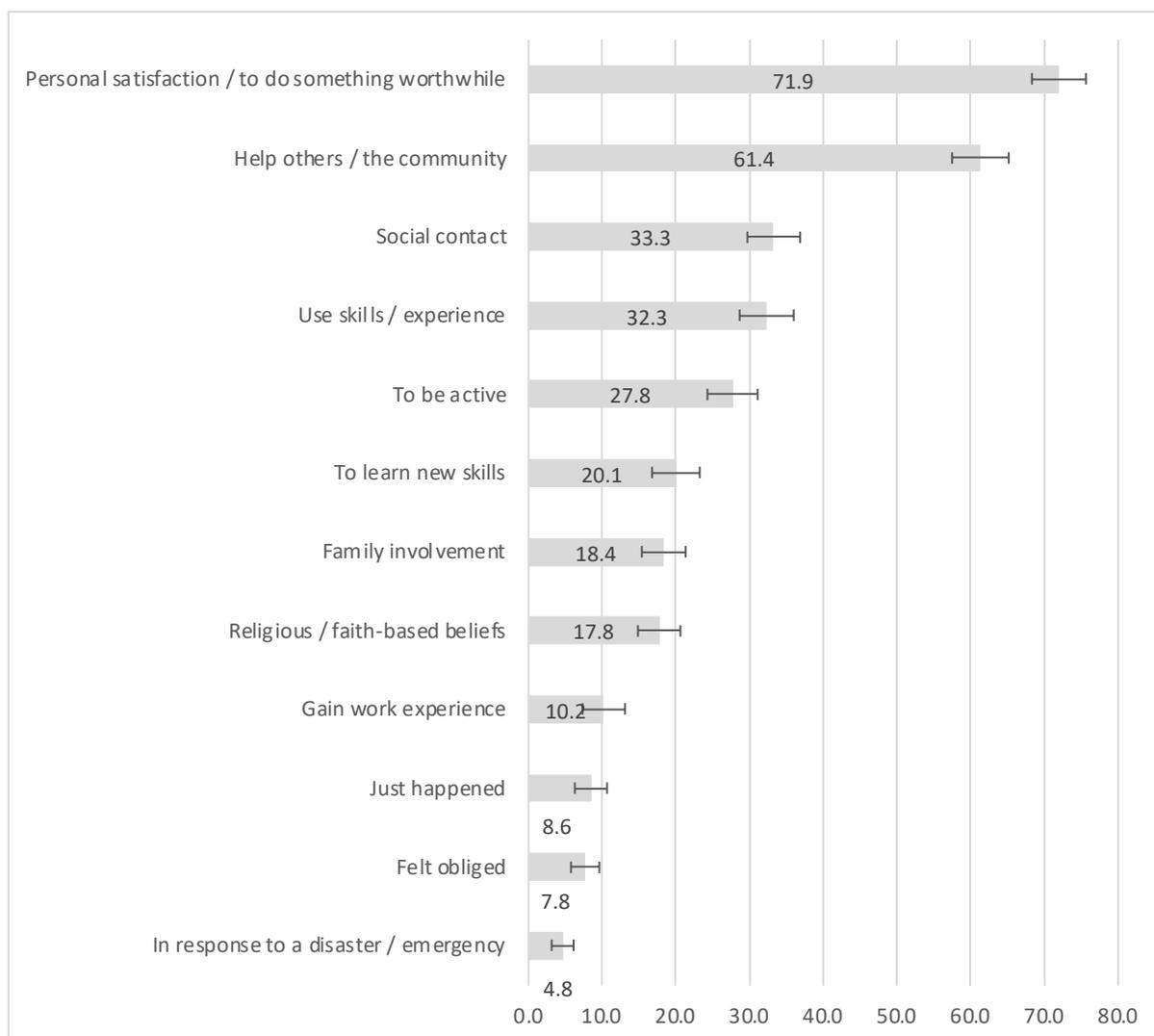
Those who had not volunteered in the previous 12-months were asked for their likelihood of either commencing or recommencing volunteer work in the next 5 years. Only 9.4 per cent of Australians said that they were very likely to commence or recommence, with the largest proportion of respondents (37.3 per cent) saying that they were somewhat likely. Slightly more than half of non-volunteers feel that they were either not very likely (31.9 per cent) or not at all likely (21.4 per cent) to commence or recommence volunteering.

Not surprisingly, those who had volunteered previously (but not in the previous 12-months) were more likely to say that they are likely or very likely to volunteer in the next 5 years. 69.8 per cent of those who said they had volunteered a lot previously said they were likely or very likely to recommence, not significantly different from the 68.1 per cent of those who had volunteered a little previously. Both, however, are much larger than the 40.1 per cent of those who had not volunteered previously who said that they would be likely or very likely to commence volunteering.

4 Reasons for volunteering/not volunteering

When asked 'What were your reasons for being a volunteer?', the most common reason given was 'Personal satisfaction / to do something worthwhile', given by 71.9 per cent of volunteers (Figure 2). Respondents are asked to select all the reasons that apply, with more than half of volunteers also saying that they did so to 'Help others / the community.'

Figure 2 Reasons for volunteering, April 2022

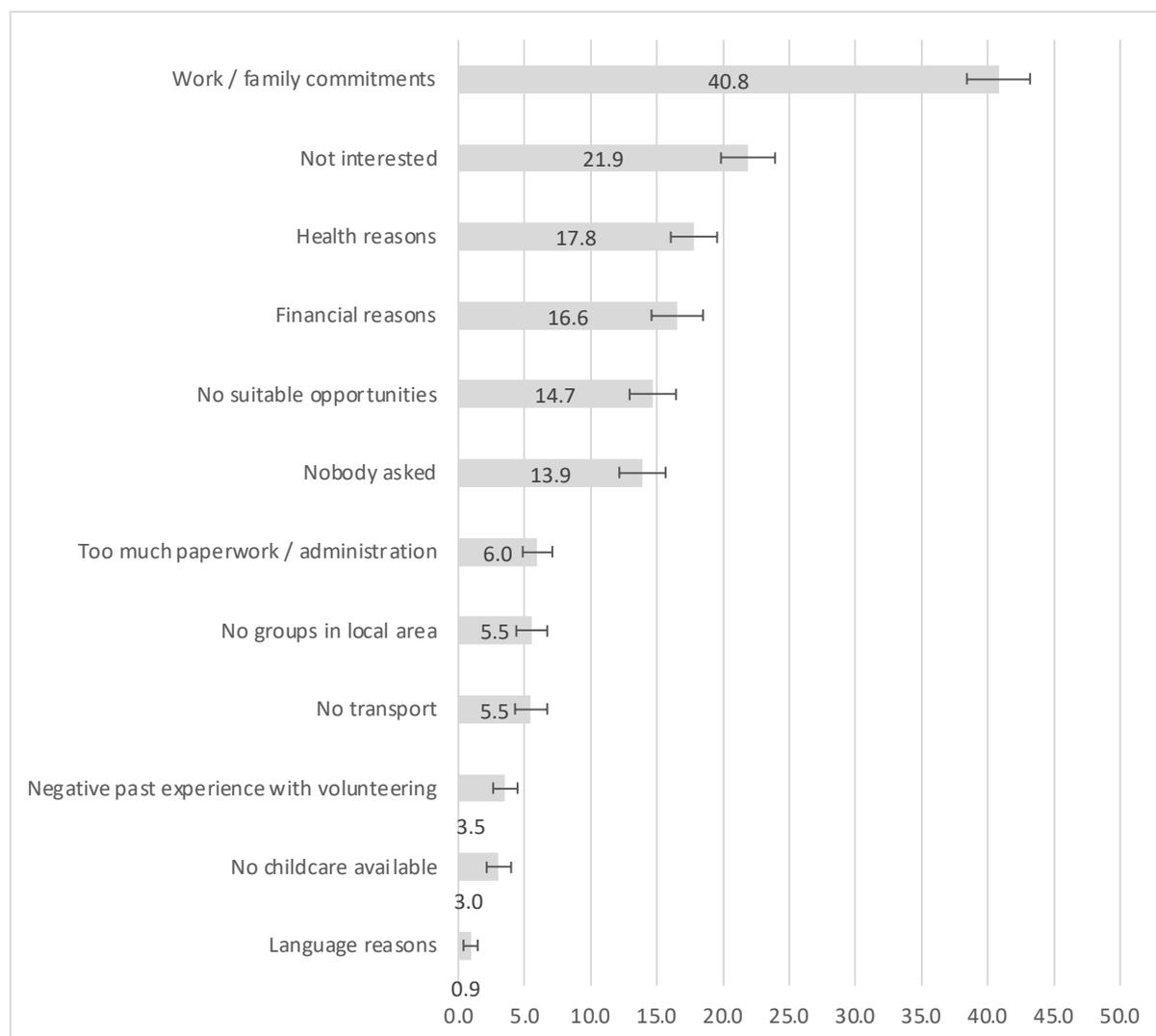


Note: The “whiskers” on the bars indicate the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimate.

Source: ANUpoll, April 2022.

When asked ‘What are all the reasons that you have not formally volunteered for an organisation or group in the last 12 months?’ the most common reason given was work /family commitments, given by 40.8 per cent of Australians (Figure 3). About one-in-five (21.9 per cent) of non-volunteers gave the fact that they were not interested as one of their reasons, with less than one-in-five non-volunteers giving each of the remaining ten reasons.

Figure 3 Reasons for not volunteering, April 2022



Note: The “whiskers” on the bars indicate the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimate.

Source: ANUpoll, April 2022.

5 Informal volunteering

While volunteering for an organisation or group is the most structured and in some ways public form of volunteering, there are many Australians who provide more informal voluntary support. The final question at the end of the volunteering module of the April 2022 survey was:

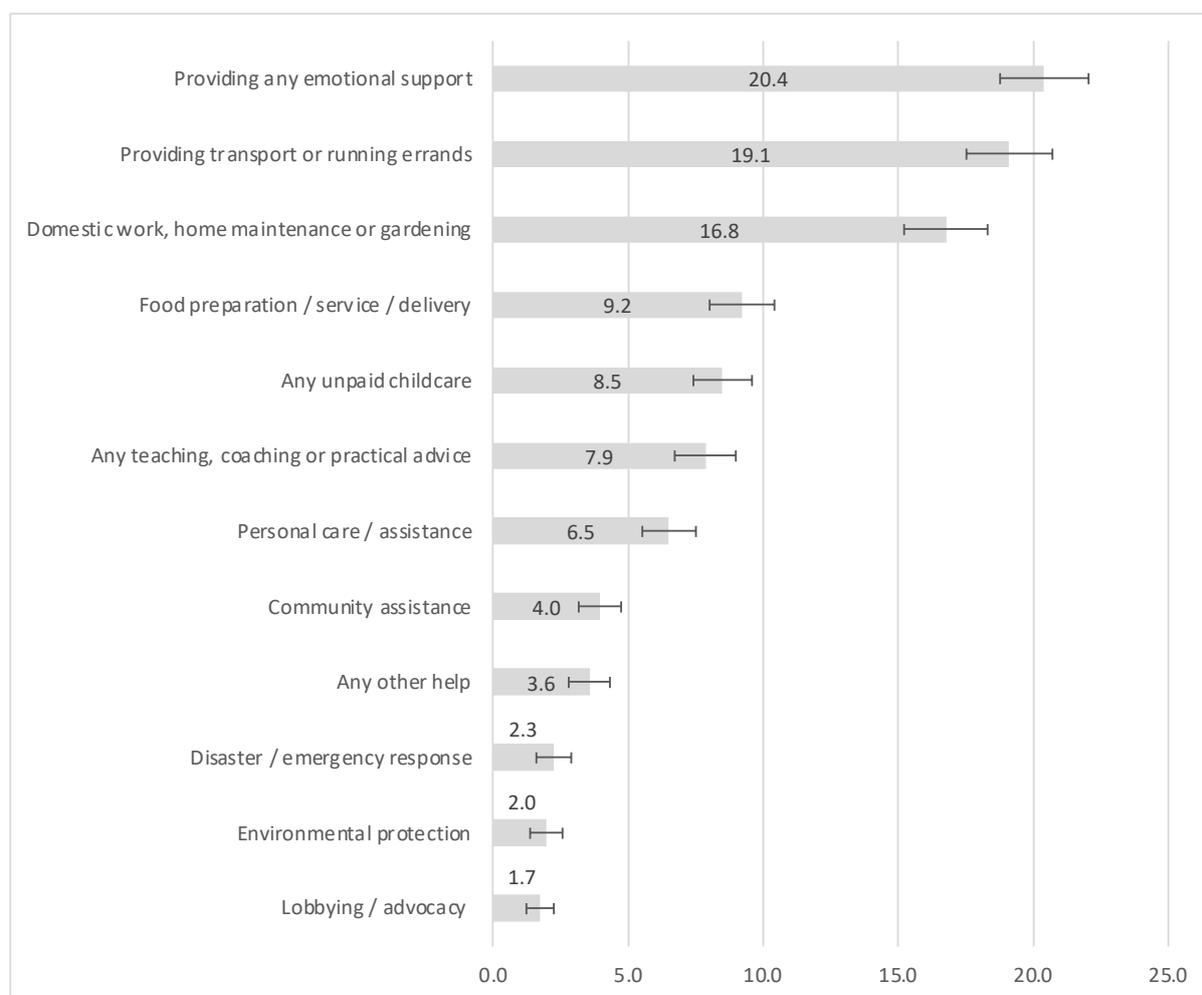
‘Informal volunteering is unpaid help that takes place outside the context of a formal organisation. It excludes help provided to other members of your household or to family members living outside your household. When answering these questions please exclude any volunteering you have already reported’ (bold in original). We then asked respondents: ‘In the last 4 weeks, did you help anyone not living with you with the following activities?’

There were 11 specific activities that we asked about, with respondents able to answer more than one activity and also having the option of choosing ‘other’ activities.

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A little under half of adult Australians (46.5 per cent) said that they provided some form of informal volunteering over the previous four weeks. The most common form of informal volunteering (Figure 4) was providing emotional support (provided by 20.4 per cent of Australians), followed by providing transport or running errands (19.1 per cent), and domestic work, home maintenance or gardening (16.8 per cent). The other forms of informal volunteering were provided by less than 10 per cent of Australians.

Figure 4 Types of informal volunteering provided, per cent of the adult population, April 2022



Note: The “whiskers” on the bars indicate the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimate.

Source: ANUpoll, April 2022.

5.1 Variation in informal volunteering across demographic groups

The factors that predict informal volunteering are somewhat different to those that predict formal volunteering. Specifically, in Table A3 we replicate the regression analysis from previously, but this time with the probability of undertaking informal volunteering as the dependent variable. Models 1 and 2 for the analysis are the same as previously, however we also add a third model that has whether or not a person undertook formal volunteering as an additional explanatory variable.

Females and older Australians were more likely to have undertaken informal volunteering than males and younger Australians respectively. The absolute differences by sex (in particular) are

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much larger for informal compared to formal volunteering. Specifically, 41.5 per cent of males undertook informal volunteering in the previous 4 weeks compared to 51.3 per cent of females.

Those born overseas in a non-English speaking country were more likely to have undertaken informal volunteering than those born in Australia. This is in the opposite direction to the association with formal volunteering, where this group had lower relative probabilities. Taken together, these findings suggest it is the type of volunteering that varies by country of birth, rather than a general propensity to volunteer. Those with a post-graduate degree are more likely to have undertaken informal volunteering (compared to those with no post-school qualifications) where those who lived in a non-capital city had a higher probability than those who lived in a capital city.

Interestingly, there were no differences in informal volunteering by hours in paid work. There were, however, quite large differences by whether or not a person undertook formal volunteering in the previous 12 months (Model 3) with those who undertook formal volunteering in the previous 12 months being far more likely to have undertaken informal volunteering in the previous 4 weeks.

6 Concluding comments

While the levels and number of hours of paid employment appear to have returned to their pre-COVID values, this does not appear to be the case in terms of volunteering. Using data from a high quality, probability-based, longitudinal panel, we show lower rates of volunteering than prior to the pandemic, a very high percentage of people who either stopped volunteering or reduced their number of hours explicitly due to COVID-19.

It is true that there are still a large number of Australians who undertook formal volunteering between April 2021 and 2022. There were even more Australians who undertook informal volunteering over the previous 4 weeks. Those who are able to undertake formal volunteering appear to benefit from the experience. Not only do those who maintained their volunteering during the COVID-period have higher life satisfaction than those who stopped, but in a direct question asked of those who undertook volunteering, the vast majority of volunteers (more than nine-in-ten) were either satisfied (53.1 per cent) or very satisfied (37.9 per cent) with their volunteering experience.

The policy challenge, therefore, is to find ways for those who aren't volunteering or who have stopped volunteering but want to from engaging or re-engaging. The most common barrier given by those who don't volunteer is work/family commitments. These commitments may have increased during the COVID-period, particularly for those who were juggling working from home and care (including home schooling).

Not everyone wants to volunteer or is able to. However, it would turn out to be one of the real negative impacts of COVID-19 and the associated policy interventions if the 'new normal' post-pandemic was fewer Australians volunteering and those who are volunteering doing so for fewer hours.

Appendix 1 About the survey

Data collection for the April 2022 ANUpoll commenced on the 11th of April 2022 with a pilot test of telephone respondents. The main data collection commenced on the 12th of April and concluded on the 26th of April. The final sample size for the survey is 3,587 respondents. 57.1 per cent of the sample had completed the survey by the 14th of April and the average interview duration was 20.3 minutes.

The Social Research Centre collected data online and through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) in order to ensure representation from the offline Australian population. Around 3.4 per cent of interviews were collected via CATI. The contact methodology adopted for the online Life in Australia™ members is an initial survey invitation via email and SMS (where available), followed by multiple email reminders and a reminder SMS. Telephone follow up of panel members who have not yet completed the survey commenced in the second week of fieldwork and consisted of reminder calls encouraging completion of the online survey. The contact methodology for offline Life in Australia™ members was an initial SMS (where available), followed by an extended call-cycle over a two-week period. A reminder SMS was also sent in the second week of fieldwork.

A total of 4,364 respondents were invited to take part in the survey, leading to a wave-specific completion rate of 82.1 per cent. Taking into account recruitment to the panel, the cumulative response rate for this survey is around 6.8 per cent. Of those who had completed the April 2022 survey, 2,424 respondents (67.6 per cent) had completed the January 2022 survey

Unless otherwise stated, data in the paper is weighted to population benchmarks. For Life in Australia™, the approach for deriving weights generally consists of the following steps:

1. Compute a base weight for each respondent as the product of two weights:
 - a. Their enrolment weight, accounting for the initial chances of selection and subsequent post-stratification to key demographic benchmarks
 - b. Their response propensity weight, estimated from enrolment information available for both respondents and non-respondents to the present wave.
2. Adjust the base weights so that they satisfy the latest population benchmarks for several demographic characteristics.

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (2021/430).

Appendix 2 Regression Tables

Table A1 Factors associated with formal volunteering, April 2022

Explanatory variables	Model 1		Model 2	
	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Employed			0.219	*
Hours worked			-0.015	***
Hours worked squared			0.00011	*
Female	0.159	***	0.124	**
Aged 18 to 24 years	0.024		0.006	
Aged 25 to 34 years	0.063		0.062	
Aged 45 to 54 years	0.025		0.040	
Aged 55 to 64 years	0.163	*	0.121	
Aged 65 to 74 years	0.333	***	0.233	**
Aged 75 years plus	0.411	***	0.300	**
Indigenous	0.096		0.079	
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	-0.027		-0.022	
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	-0.226	**	-0.240	**
Speaks a language other than English at home	0.082		0.088	
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	-0.406	***	-0.403	***
Has a post graduate degree	0.189	*	0.239	**
Has an undergraduate degree	0.155	*	0.196	**
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	-0.038		-0.015	
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	0.049		0.018	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	0.104		0.082	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	0.098		0.087	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	0.089		0.075	
Lives in another capital city	0.264	***	0.259	***
Constant	-0.946		-0.816	
Sample size	3,446		3,438	

Source: ANUpoll, April 2022

Notes: Probit Regression Models. The base case individual is male; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city.

Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

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Table A2 Factors associated with hours spent formal volunteering, April 2022

Explanatory variables	Model 1		Model 2	
	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Employed			-5.486	
Hours worked			-1.621	
Hours worked squared			0.00670	
Female	-19.437		-25.732	
Aged 18 to 24 years	10.417		-4.364	
Aged 25 to 34 years	13.207		9.352	
Aged 45 to 54 years	15.876		13.382	
Aged 55 to 64 years	132.907	***	111.538	***
Aged 65 to 74 years	143.085	***	104.221	**
Aged 75 years plus	165.777	***	126.198	**
Indigenous	101.821		101.098	
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	-7.826		-9.087	
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	-45.055	*	-43.093	*
Speaks a language other than English at home	-10.698		-13.692	
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	25.006		22.188	
Has a post graduate degree	17.536		20.260	
Has an undergraduate degree	-14.032		-6.795	
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	7.886		11.500	
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	47.363		37.979	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	-48.275		-51.702	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	18.231		12.844	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	-40.922		-42.665	
Lives in another capital city	-14.213		-13.244	
Constant	143.663		191.393	
Sample size	1,014		1,012	

Source: ANUpoll, April 2022

Notes: OLS linear Regression Models. The base case individual is male; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city.

Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

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Table A3 Factors associated with informal volunteering, April 2022

Explanatory variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.	Coeff.	Signif.
Undertook formal volunteering in previous 12 months					0.502	***
Employed			0.106		0.066	
Hours worked			-0.004		-0.001	
Hours worked squared			0.0000		-0.0000	
Female	0.288	***	0.267	***	0.250	***
Aged 18 to 24 years	0.051		0.026		0.028	
Aged 25 to 34 years	-0.042		-0.048		-0.050	
Aged 45 to 54 years	0.103		0.110		0.106	
Aged 55 to 64 years	0.019		0.007		-0.018	
Aged 65 to 74 years	0.282	***	0.242	**	0.203	**
Aged 75 years plus	0.310	***	0.273	**	0.222	*
Indigenous	-0.047		-0.057		-0.074	
Born overseas in a main English-speaking country	0.074		0.078		0.085	
Born overseas in a non-English speaking country	0.185	*	0.172	*	0.214	**
Speaks a language other than English at home	-0.054		-0.048		-0.065	
Has not completed Year 12 or post-school qualification	-0.056		-0.056		0.010	
Has a post graduate degree	0.255	**	0.259	***	0.226	**
Has an undergraduate degree	0.150	*	0.163	*	0.134	
Has a Certificate III/IV, Diploma or Associate Degree	0.090		0.098		0.108	
Lives in the most disadvantaged areas (1st quintile)	-0.107		-0.115		-0.122	
Lives in next most disadvantaged areas (2nd quintile)	0.088		0.084		0.073	
Lives in next most advantaged areas (4th quintile)	-0.114		-0.117		-0.133	
Lives in the most advantaged areas (5th quintile)	0.075		0.071		0.067	
Lives in another capital city	0.118	*	0.118	*	0.078	
Constant	-0.453		-0.409		-0.518	
Sample size	3,450		3,441		3,438	

Source: ANUpoll, April 2022

Notes: Probit Regression Models. The base case individual is male; aged 35 to 44 years; non-Indigenous; born in Australia; does not speak a language other than English at home; has completed Year 12 but does not have a post-graduate degree; lives in neither an advantaged or disadvantaged suburb (third quintile); and lives in a capital city.

Coefficients that are statistically significant at the 1 per cent level of significance are labelled ***; those significant at the 5 per cent level of significance are labelled **, and those significant at the 10 per cent level of significance are labelled *.

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Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/insights-hours-worked-february-2022>
- 2 <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Definition-of-Volunteering-27-July-20151.pdf>
- 3 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/volunteers>
- 4 <https://csrcm.cass.anu.edu.au/research/publications/covid-19>
- 5 The ANUpoll series of surveys is collected on a probability-based, longitudinal panel (Life in Australia™). By using probability-based recruiting (predominantly telephone-based) the unknown and unquantifiable biases inherent in opt-in (non-probability) panels are minimised and it is also possible to quantify the uncertainty around the estimates due to sampling error using standard statistical techniques. This is not possible with non-probability surveys.