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What are the Qualities of an Effective Volunteer?

Just as in a paid role, there are certain skills, knowledge and attributes that a volunteer will need for their volunteer role. Some are generic skills that are needed no matter what the position; others are more specific to a particular role or activity.

What makes a good volunteer?

There are certain skills, knowledge and attributes that ensure volunteering is a positive activity. Some of the attributes of an effective volunteer are:

- Confidence in themselves and their role
- Positive attitude
- Good listener
- Caring & Understanding attitude
- Compassion & empathy
- Non-judgmental
- Stamina
- Strength of character
- Courage
- Flexibility
- Sense of humour
- Ability to work in a team
- Able to communicate well
- Initiative
- Professional approach
- Commitment

What are the attributes of an effective volunteer

- Confidence in themselves and their role
- Positive mental attitude
- Good listener – for clients, workmates
- Knowledge and skills relevant to their position
- Caring and understanding attitude
- Compassion and empathy
- Ability to support others
- Non-judgmental attitude
- Stamina
- Strength of character
- Courage
- Commitment
- Flexibility
- Sense of humour
- Humility
- Ability to work in a team
- Ability to communicate well
- Honesty
- Initiative and creative
- Personality/character
- Anticipate needs
- Ability to be there for others
- Professional approach – do your best, stay calm, have self discipline and patience
- The difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstance permit. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.

How can you make the most of your volunteering? Effective volunteers who are looking to gain the most from their volunteering can:

- Recognise their motives for volunteering and ensure that their volunteer organisation is aware of them
- Seek work opportunities appropriate to their skills, interests and aspirations
- Commit to giving high quality service
- Actively accept opportunities for job training
- Carry out the work they agree to responsibly and ethically
- Be regarded as valued team members with a right to constructively contribute to decisions that affect their work
- Value and support other team members.

