



Welcome back!

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~ Mahatma Gandhi.

Hello ECU Vol Squad and welcome back for semester 2, 2020.

Whilst we were lucky enough to have a little break over semester break we are back in business and what better way to start off semester two than with the celebrations of National Student Volunteer Week.



There are thousands of students who give, grow, and connect through volunteering. This contribution has a major impact on communities and causes, on both the national and international stage.

"Collective Impact: Give.Grow.Connect" is the theme of #NSVW20. Student volunteers lend a hand and add real value to the community. Together they make a substantial collective impact on Australia.

When you give to a community or cause, student volunteers grow and flourish. You gain knowledge and create change. Through volunteering, student volunteers create their own social and professional networks. They connect with peers and people who share their same passion and interests.

National Student Volunteer Week has been celebrated in Australia since 2013



National Student Volunteer Week

Whilst National student Volunteer Week Celebrations looked a little different this year with Covid-19 restrictions, ECU volunteers and staff still got involved and showed the same amount of passion and dedication as always.

A very successful volunteer drive was organised and set up in the old Co-Cop space with mountains of donations given to Fair Game Australia, Salvation Army and Share the Dignity.

A huge thank you to all those who contributed. Every donation counts and the community members in need are extremely grateful for them



A word from Fair Game Australia

Nicki Bardwell CEO of Fair Game Australia

'Hi there! It's Nicki Bardwell here from Fair Game Australia and it's my pleasure to share with you today how volunteers help us achieve our vision for a fit and healthy Australia.

Our organisation wants to ensure that everybody has equitable access to healthy lifestyle choices. So, we do this by providing fitness and health education and opportunities to kids in remote and regional areas across WA. We have teams of volunteers that fly into the regions and then visit remote communities delivering our 'Game On' fitness activities and our 'Healthy Communities' health education.

Our operations are run entirely by volunteers, so volunteers are truly the lifeblood of our organisations. Volunteers can get involved in our organisation by applying to become a volunteer and through our recruitment process we identify students and young professionals who we really think align to our values. We then take them through a training program and then they are given the opportunity to go on week-long regional trips to deliver our programs to kids all across the state.

Without volunteers we wouldn't be able to run the programs that we do and positively impact the lives of young West Australians



Meet ECU's Vol Squad Staff



Joanne is the Coordinator of the ECU Peer Mentoring Program and loves getting to work with over 200 student volunteers each semester, as they help commencing students at ECU settle in to university life.

Joanne has loved helping out at volunteering events at ECU, both when a student and as a staff member. The highlight was helping out the Vol Squad cooking at Ronald McDonald House.

She is also passionate about raising money for, and awareness of, Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). DMD is a genetic disorder affecting mostly young boys, resulting in progressive deterioration of muscles.

There is currently no cure for this disease but thanks to the hard work of volunteers supporting medical and research teams one day there will be!

In her spare time Joanne loves spending time with her family, including her wonderful new husband and all their beautiful kids and baking cakes in her new kitchen (although she needs to stop eating all the cakes!!)

Happy Volunteering 😊

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are already engaged in volunteering activities outside of the ECU volunteer program please ensure you are aware of your rights and responsibilities as a volunteer by visiting [Volunteering Australia website](#).