

# Being part of your community



Learner guide

Ready for work

**Pre-employment skills**

# **Being part of your community**

Version 1.2



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### Being part of your community

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# Belonging to a community

A community is a group of people who live in a specific area or who are similar in some way. For example, they may be a group of people who have the same background or do the same job.

A good way to get to know people and to feel comfortable in your surroundings is to get involved in your community. We all belong to a community; some people belong to more than one community.



## The two types of communities

There are two kinds of communities:

- the area where you live
- a group of people who are like you in some way, perhaps because they are interested in the same things as you.

### Type of community

The community where you live may be your:

- family group
- apartment building
- street
- suburb
- town or city.

The community of people who share the same interests as you may be:

- a gym or sports club
- a cultural group
- a workplace
- a religious group
- a music group
- a school
- an online group.

### What it looks like

#### A family group



#### A gym or sports club



## Different communities

In a community, people share things and ideas and depend on each other. They also usually have similar values. This means they share the same beliefs about what is important to them.

For example, people in a suburban street may share the idea that people should not litter. They depend on each other to keep their street clean and value cleanliness.

In big cities we depend on each other in many ways. We don't always think about how dependent we are. You depend on people to keep the roads in good condition, the traffic lights working, the public transport moving, and the electricity working. People in a city value modern services.

Here are more examples of different communities.

Type of community	What it looks like
<p>People in a workplace share the type of work they do. They depend on each other to do their jobs so everything gets done. They value their jobs and the friendship of their workmates.</p>	
<p>People of a specific religious group, such as Christians, Muslims, Jews or Buddhists, share their beliefs. They depend on each other for support and celebrate their beliefs together. They value their right to believe in and practise their own religion.</p>	
<p>People in a sports club share their love of the sport and perhaps a particular team. They depend on each other to support their team. They value physical fitness and teamwork.</p>	

## Activity 1

Describe the community where you live. You can choose a small community, such as your street, or a bigger community, such as your suburb or town. In writing your answers, think about these things:

- What does the community look like?
- How many people live there?
- What are the people like?
- What do they do?
- What do you think they value?

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[Click to complete Activity 1](#)

## Taking part in your community

Think about the activity you just did. How much do you really know about your community? Do you know your neighbours? If you live in a city, it is sometimes hard to feel like part of your community. Often in smaller communities people know each other and depend on each other more.

Here is a picture of one type of community. Look carefully at the picture.



## Activity 2

Answer the following questions about the picture.

1. What type of community do you think this is?

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2. What activities or jobs would people in this community have?

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3. How would the people in this community depend on each other?

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4. What things do you think the people in this community would value?

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[Click to complete Activity 2](#)

## What makes a good community?

A good community is one where the people have care and concern for each other. It is one where the people openly share their goals and values.

Sometimes this is easier in the type of community shown in the previous section. In a small community like that people all know each other. They are often involved in the same work and help each other. For example, if there is a storm, they work together to clean up the area, or if someone is struggling, they will pitch in to help.

No matter where you live, you can help make your community a good one. All you need to do is get involved. This can give you a feeling of belonging and help you meet people and make friends. It may also help you realise that you can change things for the better.



## Story

Some years ago, some people in Paris, France, decided to get all the people in their apartment building together for a meal. They had the meal in summer, in the courtyard of their building. Everyone brought some food to share. The idea was for people to meet their neighbours, who they live so close to but don't know. It made a real change in their small community. When the neighbours saw each other after the meal they felt a sense of togetherness. The idea became very popular and soon people were organising what they call building fêtes in the streets all over Paris. Now neighbours in many other countries hold building fêtes too.



## Think about ...

Think about the community where you live.

- Are the people friendly?
- Are there people in the community who need help?
- Do you know if any people in your community work together to help others?
- Are some people trying to change anything in your community?
- Are some people trying to make your community better?

### Activity 3

1. Do you think the community where you live is a good community? Why?

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2. How do you think your community could be made better?

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[Click to complete Activity 3](#)

## Volunteering

Everyone can help make their community a better place to live. One way is to volunteer. This means giving up your time to help others without being paid. There are many ways to volunteer. There are different opportunities for everyone, no matter what you are interested in doing. Most community organisations need volunteers.

Here are some ways to volunteer in different communities.

### Type of community

Firefighting volunteers work with the Country Fire Service (CFS) or the Country Fire Authority (CFA). The volunteers in these organisations fight fires and save lives and properties when fires break out in rural areas. They also attend road accidents and repair flood and storm damage. It is a dangerous and important volunteer job.

Learning to apply first aid is another way to volunteer. St John Ambulance volunteers give medical help at sports matches and big events such as concerts and festivals.

Some people volunteer at aged care homes by reading to older people who have lost their sight, or going for walks with people who use a wheelchair or walking frame. Volunteers may also do grocery shopping or write letters for older people.

Some people volunteer with children or adults who have disabilities. They go on outings together or help them with activities like shopping for groceries or cooking a meal.

Schools always need volunteers. They help when classes go on excursions, at sports days and in the canteen. Volunteers may also listen to and help children who are learning to read.

### What it looks like



## Story



A group of people in a city suburb want a playground for the local children. The city councillors say they have the land but don't have the money to build the playground. So a group of parents goes to some local building companies. They ask for supplies and help to build the playground. The companies agree to help, so the parents get a large group of volunteers together. The group includes other parents, builders and building apprentices from a local TAFE. They raise funds to buy the materials cheaply from the suppliers, and together build a wooden adventure playground. They all help to make their community a better place for the children, who now have a safe place to play.

## Activity 4

1. Do any of the types of volunteering mentioned match your interests? If so, which ones?

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2. If not, what organisation can you think of that matches your interests and may need volunteers?

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[Click to complete Activity 4](#)

# How to find out about volunteering

There are many ways to learn how and where you can volunteer.

- Do you have friends or relations who are volunteers? They can give you information.
- Telephone your local council. Ask them about volunteer opportunities.
- Call a local school or retirement home. Ask if they need volunteers.
- Look on the internet. There are many websites about volunteering.

Here are some websites that can help you find volunteering opportunities.

Organisation	Details
<b>Go Volunteer</b>	The Go Volunteer website gives you information about volunteering in your area: <a href="http://aspirelr.link/go-volunteer">http://aspirelr.link/go-volunteer</a>
<b>Youth Central</b>	Some state and territory governments have useful websites for volunteering. Youth Central is one for people in Victoria.  Go to 'Jobs' then select 'Volunteering & work experience': <a href="http://aspirelr.link/youth-central">http://aspirelr.link/youth-central</a>
<b>Seek Volunteer</b>	The Seek Volunteer website shows you volunteering opportunities all over Australia: <a href="http://aspirelr.link/volunteer-aus">http://aspirelr.link/volunteer-aus</a>

## Story



One Australian man, Ian Kiernan, was upset by all the rubbish he saw in his local community. He started a campaign to improve the environment. He organised friends and volunteers to clean up his local community in Sydney. He called the campaign Clean Up Australia. Now, every year in March there is a Clean Up Australia Day, when thousands of volunteers clean up their own communities. The campaign expanded to include a Business Clean Up Day and a Schools Clean Up Day.

Since the first National Clean Up Australia Day, over 300,000 tonnes of rubbish has been collected. People have volunteered more than 31.5 million hours to tidy up their communities. This volunteering has made a real difference to the community.

The Clean Up website has lots of ideas to help make Australia and the world a better place through volunteering and working together to reduce waste.

Here is the website: <http://aspirelr.link/clean-up-australia>

Are there any causes you are interested in doing something about? For example, is there anything in your community that makes you upset? There are many things you can do. Organisations need people to help raise money, tell others about the cause, deliver leaflets or get petitions signed.

## Activity 5

1. Think about an issue that concerns you in your local community. Write a short description about it.

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2. List some ways you could help to improve the issue you are concerned about.

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[Click to complete Activity 5](#)

## Interest communities

As well as working to improve your community, you can take part in your community by becoming a member of a group or club that shares your interests. This is called an interest community.

Here are some interest communities you may like to join.

Type of community	What it looks like
<p>A sports club, such as a football, cricket or tennis club. You may be a player, a referee or a supporter. As well as playing games and training, members get together to socialise and raise funds for the club. Everyone in the club enjoys and is interested in the sport.</p>	
<p>A cultural group, such as a Greek dancing group or a Maori kapa haka (performing) group. In cultural groups people can speak their own language and participate in activities from their culture. They share a love of their language and the things that relate to their culture. Sometimes they may wear their traditional clothing.</p>	
<p>A music group, such as a band or choir. People get together regularly to practise. It may just be a small group of friends or a big community band or orchestra. They share a love of music.</p>	

### Type of community

A religious group, such as a church, synagogue, mosque or temple group. People share a set of beliefs and worship together. They may also be part of the same cultural group.

A school group, such as a group of classmates who work on a project together. Some people keep up their friendships after they have left school. They enjoy talking about their school days and remembering the funny things that happened.

An online group, such as a group on Facebook, Instagram or Pinterest. People enjoy communicating online and sharing in the interests and activities of their friends or people they admire.

### What it looks like



## Taking part in interest communities

Just like working as a volunteer, joining an interest community can give you a sense of belonging. Sometimes there are even symbols to show that you belong; for example, people in a sports club wear a scarf or hat with their team colours. Some groups wear badges; some, such as Scouts, wear a uniform to show they belong; and some religious groups have symbols such as a cross or a Star of David.

Being part of an interest community or group means sharing responsibilities as well as fun. Everyone contributes to the group. This could mean cleaning up after an event, helping to raise money for the club or encouraging new members to join the group.



## Activity 6

1. Why do you think it's a good idea to belong to an interest community?

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2. What are some of the groups or clubs you know of in your community?

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3. Do you belong to any groups or clubs? If so, what are they?

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4. If you don't belong to any groups, think about one you may like to join. Gather all the information you can about the group. You may need to make telephone calls, ask someone for help, or look on the internet. Write what you find out below.

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[Click to complete Activity 6](#)

## What you have learnt

Put a ✓ in the box when you have learnt these things.

- There are two types of communities:
  - The community where you live
  - The community or group of people who are like you in some way
- In a good community, people care about each other and try to improve their community.
- No matter where you live, you can help to make your community a good one.
- You should try to become involved in your community.
- You can play a bigger part in your community by doing volunteer work.
- Taking part in an interest community is a good way to meet people who share your interests.

## Check your learning

Do one of the following tasks.

### Task 1

If you belong to a community group, club or organisation, design a poster or a brochure about the group. It should tell people:

- what the group does
- how to join
- why you enjoy belonging
- why it is a good idea for other people to join.

### Task 2

If you do any volunteer work, write about what you do **OR** give a talk to your class about it **OR** design a poster about it. Include the following information:

- The type of volunteer work you do
- Why you do the volunteer work
- Who you work with
- If you enjoy the work
- Why it is a good idea for other people to volunteer

### Task 3

If you don't belong to any group right now, use the information you collected in activity 6 to give a short talk to your class. The talk should be about a group you would like to join. It may be an interest group or a place to volunteer. Tell the class what the group does and why you would like to join. Be prepared to answer questions about your topic.

[Click to complete](#)

# Answers

## Answers to activities

### Activity 1

#### Answer to Question 1

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

My community is an outer-Melbourne bayside suburb. It is made up of many young families. It has many nice recreation areas like parks, playgrounds and a clean beach. The people are very friendly. They value the quiet, friendly streets and surrounds, which make them feel safe.

### Activity 2

#### Answer to Question 1

A farming community.

#### Answer to Question 2

They might be farmers, or work in the local shops. They might play sports or be involved in outdoor activities like hiking and camping.

#### Answer to Question 3

They might rely on each other to work on their farms or provide jobs for one another. They may rely on the local shops to provide supplies and also buy their produce.

#### Answer to Question 4

If it is a small town, they may value a tightknit community where most people know one another. They may value the environment, or a tradition of working and living on the land.

### Activity 3

#### Answer to Question 1

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

Yes, my community is a good community. It is a very friendly place where people know each other's names. We greet each other in the street. It is a safe community as we look out for each other.

#### Answer to Question 2

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

Many people have recently moved to the area. We could have a street party to welcome the new people to the area. This would make them feel welcome and part of the community.

### Activity 4

#### Answer to Question 1

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

Yes, working with older people interests me. I don't have grandparents, so I would find it rewarding to spend time with older people.

#### Answer to Question 2

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

Working with animals appeals to me. I could contact local vets or animal shelters to volunteer for them.

### Activity 5

#### Answer to Question 1

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

An issue that concerns me is the wasted block of land on George Street. It was supposed to be developed into a playground. The council says it is still going to happen, but nothing has been done for three years. I would like to see this project start so the local children have somewhere nice, new and safe to play.

**Answer to Question 2**

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

I could lobby the council or arrange a community meeting to discuss this issue.

**Activity 6****Answer to Question 1**

You will meet people who have the same interests as you, so you may make new friends.

**Answer to Question 2**

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

Local football, cricket and tennis clubs; a garden preservation society; a lifesaving club; a walking club.

**Answer to Question 3**

Answers will vary. Here is an example answer.

Yes, an online book club and a local tennis club.

**Answer to Question 4**

Answers will vary greatly, but should include all the information listed in the question.

**Answers to check your learning****Answer to Task 1**

Answers will vary greatly, but should include all the information listed in the task. The poster or brochure should be clear and easy to read. It should also be colourful and may include pictures or photos.

**Answer to Task 2**

Answers will vary greatly, but should include all the information listed in the task. The description or talk should be clear and well organised. The essay or poster should be clear and easy to read. The poster should also be colourful and may include pictures or photos.

### **Answer to Task 3**

Answers will vary greatly, but should include all the information listed in the task about a community group to join. The talk should be clear and well organised. Any questions asked should be answered.