

STUDY OF THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF
VOLUNTARY & PART-TIME RECREATION WORKERS.

STATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.

Given the changing patterns of recreation in Australia, the basic objectives of this National Study of Voluntary Recreation Workers will be primarily to:-

- (a) Assess the effectiveness of training courses and identify future needs for particular types of training courses.
- (b) Examine the relationship between the volunteer and the professional.
- (c) Determine ways to preserve and encourage volunteer participation.

VICTORIAN COMPONENT OF THE STUDY

The Victorian study will consist of two parts:-

Part A

1. The administering of questionnaires to a sample of senior personnel in recreation agencies at all levels of operation (e.g. State, Regional and Local levels).
2. The administering of questionnaires to a sample of volunteers and part-time workers at all levels of operation (e.g. State, Regional and Local levels).

Part B

To develop a series of profiles of voluntary and part-time recreation workers. These profiles will be in terms of attitudinal and socio-economic characteristics.

DETAILS OF STUDY

Part A

The Department has employed a research officer to administer the two questionnaires to a wide sample of senior personnel and volunteers working for a wide and diverse range of recreation agencies.

Copies of the questionnaires are attached for your information.

These two questionnaires have been designed for the Federal Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development and will be administered in all states and territories of Australia.

Each state department will be required to write a State report which will then be used to write a National report.

The Victorian study is to take four months, and it is anticipated that the National report will be written in a further two months. The National report's completion date is planned to be around January, 1977.

Part B

The Department is to employ consultants to develop a series of profiles of voluntary and part-time recreation workers.

The aim of this section of the study will be to:-

- (a) determine profiles of voluntary and part-time recreation workers including attitudinal, psychological and socio-economic variables.
- (b) determine what motivates a person to volunteer his or her services as a recreation worker.
- (c) determine the factors that cause volunteers and part-time recreation workers to discontinue their services as recreation workers,

This project will last for 2½ months period, and the consultants fee will be \$12,000.

CRITICAL REVIEW PANEL.

The Department has set up critical review panel of six members consisting of two Departmental staff and four people with experience who are from outside the Department.

The panel consists of:-

Dr. Ian Bennett
Dr. Hugh Eadie
Mr. Bill Manallack
Mr. Brian Nettleton
Mr. Tom Sinclair
Mr. Graham Thompson (Convenor)

The brief of this panel is to assist in the overseeing of the project, act as a data source and review draft documents as they become available. They will be involved in both parts of the study.

The study is totally funded by the Federal Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

It is hoped that the study will:-

- (a) provide an overview of the role, status and present training of voluntary recreation workers in Australia. This will include a comparative analysis between states and the types of agencies operating in the field.
- (b). Provide the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation with information from which it can review its present policy and subsidies towards the training and recruitment of volunteers in Victoria.
- (c) provide Recreation Agencies with information which will enable them to review their own policies towards the training and recruitment of volunteers.
- (d) highlight a number of issues that may require intensive further investigation.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

For information relating to the overall study of Part B, please contact Mr. Graham Thompson of the Department Phone 602 1566, and for information relating to Part A (the questionnaires) please contact Miss. Prue Haywood also of the Department Phone 602 1566.

CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

- Full-time worker - Any person who receives payment for his/her services and who is employed full-time for this purpose.
- * Part-time worker - Any person who receives payment for his/her services but who has another full-time primary occupation.
- * Voluntary worker - Any person who receives no payment for his/her services other than honorariums.
- * Voluntary full-time worker - Any voluntary worker as previously defined, who devotes his services to an organization on a full-time basis.
- * Voluntary part-time worker - Any voluntary worker as previously defined who devotes his services to an organization on a part-time basis.
- Training - Any planned programme that has as its aim the further development of the leadership skills of the participants.
- In-Service Training - Any training as previously defined, undertaken by way of attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops or through manuals, which does not take place while the individual is actively engaged in his/her duties.
- On-the-job training - Any training as previously defined which is incorporated as part of the work experience, e.g. planned observation of other workers, working under supervision for the purposes of improving leadership skills, etc.
- * For the purposes of this study, these categories will all be referred to under the general title of "Volunteer".