



Volunteer Role Descriptions

At EdConnect, our mission is to prepare and connect intergenerational volunteers with disadvantaged or at-risk young people for educational success and personal wellbeing.

Volunteers assist EdConnect to achieve this mission by providing much needed and valued support to a local primary or high school through volunteering as a Mentor or Learning Support Volunteer.

Schools tell us that EdConnect volunteers are positive and trusted role models who provide one-on-one assistance to those who need it most.

Mentor Volunteer

EdConnect mentors provide support to students who are at risk of not achieving their educational potential.

Mentors utilise their listening skills and life experience to build a positive, trusting relationship and provide one-on-one social and emotional support outside the classroom, on school grounds.

- **Provide one hour, weekly mentoring sessions during school terms.**
- Build a trusting relationship.
- Teach social skills and provide emotional support.
- Assist a student to build confidence, self-esteem and resilience.
- Whilst academic work can be an element of the mentoring time, it does not need to be the main focus.
- Decide on activities together, such as talking, building projects, games, crafts, sports or other projects.
- On occasion, mentoring can be done in small groups.

We ask mentors to commit for a **minimum of one year** so students can benefit from the experience.

Learning Support Volunteer

Learning Support Volunteers (LSVs) assist students and teachers in the classroom or in other areas of the school for a minimum of one hour per week.

LSVs like being involved in the busy school environment, often working autonomously as part of the school team.

Using patience, understanding and a positive attitude about education, volunteers encourage and support students to achieve academic goals.

The most common roles are:

- Assisting students with their learning within a classroom.
- Listening to students read.
- Working with small groups of students to assist with literacy or numeracy work.

Other roles include:

- Assisting in the school library, canteen or breakfast club.
- Assisting with specialist programs.

We require Learning Support Volunteers to commit for a **minimum of six months** so schools can integrate volunteer support into their timetables.



Please read the information over the page to see if volunteering with EdConnect is right for you.

About you

Being an EdConnect volunteer means that you will be working in a busy school environment, learning new things about students and education. Prior to applying it is important to consider if volunteering with EdConnect is the right fit for you.

As an EdConnect volunteer, you will:

- have a positive attitude towards children and education;
- have good communication skills, especially listening;
- demonstrate positive behaviours such as respect, patience and maturity;
- have empathy and understanding for the challenges experienced by school-aged children;
- be flexible and understanding to the challenges of the school environment;
- work autonomously as well as part of the school team, adhering to EdConnect's and the school's policies and procedures;
- take direction from staff;
- be reliable and committed to the volunteering role;
- be willing to learn new things; and
- be fluent in written and spoken English.

Benefits: EdConnect volunteers experience enhanced wellbeing, community connections and learn new skills. EdConnect volunteering is a rewarding role that makes a difference in your local community. Volunteering with EdConnect also provides practical experience for those studying or thinking of working in child related fields.

Eligibility: Volunteers must be over 18 years old, eligible to live and work in Australia, willing to obtain a Working With Children Check (all states) and Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (WA only).

EdConnect volunteering is not suitable for a short-term volunteering experience.

Supervision: An EdConnect Liaison Officer will facilitate the screening process and provide ongoing support. A school staff member will provide an orientation and be your school contact.

Training: EdConnect volunteers are required to complete our tailored training prior to commencement and a refresher training session every three years. Flexible delivery options are available including face-to-face and online, and are free to all applicants.

Location: EdConnect works with hundreds of schools nationally. We will work with you to find a suitable school, based on school need as well as your skills, interests and location.

Commitment:

- Minimum of one hour per week for the school year (holidays may be taken at any time).
- Regular weekly volunteering time during school terms: Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 3.00pm. This may vary based on school start and finish times.
- Regular communication with the school and EdConnect.
- Comply with EdConnect's Code of Conduct, policies and procedures, and school policies and procedures.
- Complete EdConnect surveys.

What's next:

If you are interested in becoming an EdConnect volunteer, please visit the EdConnect website www.edconnectaustralia.org.au to find out more and complete an application or call us on 1800 668 550 or email edconnect@edconnect.org.au.

After application, an EdConnect staff member will be in touch.