



Volunteer with Meerilinga

Your time is the most valuable gift you can give to help others. Get involved today and make a difference in your local community.

VOLUNTEER

About Meerilinga

Meerilinga is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity that engages and empowers children, their families, and communities to raise the status of children in Western Australia.

Meerilinga has been promoting positive childhoods and empowering communities for over 100 years. We began in 1911 as the Kindergarten Union of WA, with our Kindergarten Training College established in 1913 and our first kindergarten opened at Meerilinga House in 1922.

Today, our Children and Family Services across Perth continue to serve local communities as inclusive places where children, families, and community members can find belonging and feel valued.

Meerilinga is recognised for excellence in its high-quality service delivery and holistic approach in Early Childhood Education and Care as well as in community engagement. With the support of community-focused programs and services, Meerilinga continues to create pathways that support individual, family, and community wellbeing.



Our vision

Providing enriched early education experiences for children through developing strong and connected communities.

Our mission

To be outstanding in the development and wellbeing of children, supporting their families and community as a local, independent, charitable organisation.

We pride ourselves on maintaining a professional workforce, upholding the highest standards of ethical and professional behaviour.

Volunteering overview

Volunteers make a significant contribution to Meerilinga and to the children and families they work with and we recognise that volunteers are valuable members of our team.

Our volunteers generously donate their time without the expectation of payment to help us deliver our community services. Whether you choose to donate your time, special skills, energy, enthusiasm, or something else, the effort will be especially appreciated.

Meerilinga offers a range of volunteering opportunities for individuals and groups, including students, community, and corporate groups. Meerilinga volunteers work alongside staff, children, youth, seniors, families and community members.

Volunteering is Western Australia's largest industry by employment.

Treated as a sector in its own right, volunteering is WA's largest industry by employment.

Volunteering	\$17.5 billion
Mining	\$12.5 billion
Construction	\$12.5 billion
Professional, Scientific & Tech	\$8.5 billion

Value of volunteering to the WA Economy



The Economic, Social and Cultural value of volunteering in WA is worth

\$39 billion



4 out of 5

WA residents volunteer their time either formally or informally in the community



The average number of hours donated per person is 16 hours per month, which is more than

315,000,000 hours per year



7,500

Tourists visited WA to volunteer in 2014

Why volunteer with Meerilinga?

It's flexible

You can volunteer as much or as little as you like. We value your gift of time, no matter how big or small.

It's fun

You can choose to do the things you love most, while still helping others. From gardening, to attending festivals, to playing musical chairs with the children, there are so many fun options where you can lend a hand.

It's rewarding

You are making a positive impact in people's lives by contributing to creating safe, healthy and inclusive spaces for children, families and the community.

It's a learning experience

You can share your talents, learn new skills and receive the guidance you need to expand your community work experience.

It's social

We celebrate our volunteers with social events throughout the year where you'll connect with other volunteers and make new friends.

Volunteer work with Meerilinga is flexible - you can volunteer as a one-off or commit to regular days. We offer volunteering roles across all of our seven Children and Family Services and at our Bullsbrook Outreach Service.



How can you help?

From helping us set up and pack down events to planting new seeds in our gardens and playtime with the children in our early learning program, our volunteers are an important part of our mission.

We have six main types of volunteer roles across our Meerilinga community, so there's something to suit every interest and skill level:

- **Wellbeing and nutrition**
Suitable for anyone who has a passion for cooking, wellbeing activities, to assist with our pram walks and outdoor activities
- **Youth engagement**
Suitable for young people between the age of 18-20 years old or anyone who is keen to work with our local youth, to support us in designing and facilitating youth programs
- **Seniors engagement**
Suitable for people who are keen to offer companionship to our local seniors, to support us in facilitating activities to keep them active and engaged
- **Family support**
Suitable for people who loves to be involved with social events, to assist us with our Early Learning Program, playgroups, school holiday activities and community events
- **Environment and sustainability**
Suitable for people with knowledge and passion for the environment, recycling and sustainability, to help care for our facilities
- **Art, crafts and storytelling**
Suitable for people who loves creativity to support our children and community members with fun activities to build confidence and learn new skills

Meet Marta



Marta has been volunteering with Meerilinga's Bullsbrook outreach service over the past two and a half years.

Marta enjoys being creative, supporting families, meeting new people and helping us with our community events such as NAIDOC Week, Children's Week, and pop-up play days in the park.

Marta loves working with the children and being a part of the Bullsbrook community. Observing the children's growth has been a highlight for Marta.

Marta has been recognised by the Swan Volunteer Resource Centre in the Spring edition of their Volunteer Digest newsletter.

Marta is a very important part of the Meerilinga Bullsbrook team, and we thank her warmly for her unwavering dedication!

Volunteer recruitment

There are many ways in which you may apply for a volunteer role at Meerilinga:

- Volunteering WA website
- Local government volunteering portals
- Meerilinga website
- Promotional posters and flyers
- Community fairs/festivals
- Collaborating agencies
- Corporate initiatives
- Word of mouth

Local governments' Volunteer Resource Centres have Referral Officers who are available to help you find the right volunteer role that suits your skills, interests, motivation, and your availability.

Meerilinga Volunteer Recruitment Process:

1. Your expression of interest is then received by Meerilinga, and our Community Development Advisor will get in touch with more information.
2. Once you have decided to apply for a volunteer role, you will need to complete an application form.
3. We will then schedule an interview with you to discuss what positions are available and which areas suit your skillset and interests.
4. If you are suitable for the role, we will contact two references and organise your Working With Children Check (if your role involves working directly with children) and/or National Police Clearance. Costs for these documents will be reimbursed by Meerilinga.
5. Meerilinga's CEO will review and approve your application.

Meet Jack



Jack joined Meerilinga as a volunteer in 2021. Jack enjoys helping our team with taking photos and videos at various events such as NAIDOC Week and Children's Week.

Jack studied graphic design at university and shares his skills and knowledge with the community through his volunteer role with Meerilinga.

Jack loves being active and spending time with our Early Learning Program children, helping them with art and crafts as well as storytime.

Jack is a role model for our children and young people, and we thank him warmly for his community contributions!

Orientation & induction

To welcome you to Meerilinga, we deliver a volunteer orientation session which provides an overview of our approach to volunteering. All new volunteers are required to attend.

This session runs for approximately for one hour and is a great opportunity to gain an understanding of the expectations of Meerilinga's volunteer program and volunteers rights and responsibilities.

Induction

During your first few weeks, our Community Development Advisor will help you to become familiar with Meerilinga including relevant policies and procedures.

Wherever you are placed, whether at one of our Children and Family Services, our outreach service or at our West Leederville office, the induction will help you settle in, be familiar with your volunteering activities, and feel part of the team.

COVID-19

Some volunteer roles may include working with people who are at increased risk or vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19, therefore may be subject to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination as outlined in the State Governments COVID-19 mandatory vaccination policy. For the latest information on vaccine requirements for volunteers, visit meerilinga.org.au/covid-19



What our volunteers say

"I have loved my role with the children. My very first day was daunting until I asked a staff member what I could do, and she said simply, 'play with the children'. From then on, the role came naturally to me. Playing in the sandpit, help build rock towers, reading stories, helping children learn the very first steps in writing, playing imaginary games involving driving boats through shark infested waters or stepping from one log to another to avoid crocodiles... I love it all! I think my favourite part of the role is spending time with the quieter, more withdrawn children. To feel them slowly begin to trust me and begin to enjoy their time in the Centre is so rewarding. Being a volunteer means I do not have any other tasks to fulfill during the day so I can enjoy one-on-one time with the children. I am welcomed and made to feel part of the team." - Diana

"It's been 30 years now since I first started volunteering. I just love to volunteer. I love to work with Meerilinga and its staff because of the respect I get here. The team is so skilled and dedicated, we work collaboratively and staff listen to my suggestions and implement them where possible. I have completed my Diploma in Early Childhood and Meerilinga gives me freedom to set up activities and interact with families and community, plus the opportunity to interact and meet with other volunteers." - Joanna

Meet Diana



Diana began volunteering with Meerilinga in 2018. Diana expressed her passion for volunteering in the community and contributes to Meerilinga by supporting staff, children and families in a range of programs including playgroup for mothers and children from 0 to 4 years.

Diana had worked previously as a nurse and shares her dedication to caring for others with the Meerilinga family.

Diana is also a mother of twin boys, and supports her husband in his business when not volunteering at our services.

Diana is a valued team member at Meerilinga, and we thank her warmly for her support!

Volunteering Support

Meerilinga is fortunate to receive support through Volunteering WA and local government, including:

- City of Wanneroo
- City of Cockburn
- City of Melville
- City of Fremantle Volunteer Resource Centre
- Swan Volunteer Resource Centre
- City of Joondalup Volunteer Resource Centre

These important connections and relationships help us recruit new volunteers and learn new skills through a wide range of volunteering training courses that they provide.

We also host Corporate Volunteer Days, where volunteers from Woodside, BHP, Bankwest and Bunnings to name a few, continually support our services with gardening, outdoor environment designs and general maintenance of our facilities.

Meerilinga volunteers are also invited to participate in volunteering networks, forums, and professional development to upskill and stay up to date with the latest training and trends. Our team will provide ongoing guidance to help find activities or services that match your skills and/or aspirations.

Meet Joanna



Joanna joined Meerilinga as a volunteer in January 2019 and has since been a very important member of the Meerilinga team.

Joanna has 30 years of volunteering experience and brings with her a wealth of knowledge when it comes to providing community services. She has also completed a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care, and works alongside our Educators at our Early Learning Program.

Joanna is passionate about the environment and loves to help us take care of the local bushland. She helps us in educating the children about how we can best take care of the environment we live in.

Joanna is a fantastic member of our team and we thank her warmly for her commitment!



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