CURTIN VOLUNTEERS!
2014 IMPACT REPORT
Make tomorrow better.

cv.curtin.edu.au
CURTIN VOLUNTEERS! in 2014

- 943 volunteers
- 177 volunteer activities
- 115 community partners
- 22,977 volunteer hours contributed
- 1,819 roles filled
- 496 domestic
- 322 international
- 65 countries

Volunteer leaders 97

Developed their communication skills (81%)
Improved their ability to work in a team (76%)
Advanced their cross-cultural knowledge and understanding (73%)

Volunteers’ country of origin

Full Time Equivalent staff 4.1
Formed in 1994, Curtin Volunteers! (CV!) is a student-driven volunteering hub based at Curtin University’s Bentley Campus. It sits within the CurtinLife area and aims to provide Curtin students with opportunities which will enhance their University experience and benefit the wider community.

CV! provides students with experiential learning and leadership opportunities by offering volunteering roles in a wide range of community-identified programs and projects. Students are also afforded the opportunity to take leadership roles on the CV! Leadership Team where they play a critical part in CV!’s day-to-day operation. They work alongside full-time Curtin staff who provide ongoing support and mentorship.

CV!’s activities span five portfolio areas – Culture & Communication, Remote & Indigenous (R&I), Environment, Health and Youth – and are spread throughout metropolitan and regional Western Australia, ranging from Curtin’s Bentley Campus to the remote town of Laverton, approximately 1,000 kilometres northeast of Perth. All activities are conducted in consultation with relevant stakeholders to ensure that they provide mutual benefit for our volunteers and the community alike.
Three full time and four part-time staff based at Curtin’s Bentley Campus oversee the strategic and operational functions of CV!. Additionally, they provide training, ongoing support and supervision to the volunteer Leadership Team who play critical roles in day-to-day operations. In 2014, there were 97 individual volunteer leaders who occupied 40 roles in Semester 1 and 92 roles in Semester 2.

**Staff**
- Manager (FT)
- Volunteer Officer (FT)
- Director of the R&I Program (FT)
- Assistant Director of the R&I Program (PT)
- John Curtin Weekend (JCW) Coordinator (PT)
- Student Equity Support Officer (PT)
- Volunteers in Sport Coordinator (PT)

**Volunteer Leadership Team**
- President
- Vice-President
- Directors
- Communications Officer
- Graphic Designer
- Videographer
- Photographers
- Program Coordinators
- Trip Leaders
- Program Leaders
- Project Leaders
- Interns (JCW)
- Regional Coordinators (JCW)
- Yearbook designer (JCW)
- Yearbook content writers (JCW)
CV!’s 2013 – 2015 Strategic Plan was developed with Curtin’s broader objectives in mind, specifically that:
- Curtin will be a university of opportunity where graduates are equipped for the future (Teaching and Learning); and
- Curtin will address the major challenges facing society and meet the needs of the communities we serve (Engagement and Impact).

Four areas of strategic focus were identified and corresponding goals were developed to directly contribute to the University’s objectives above. They are:

**Programs and Projects**
- Deliver diverse and meaningful volunteer programs and/or projects that meet the needs of the communities CV! serves.
- Deliver volunteer programs and/or projects that provide a rewarding experience for students that enhance their classroom learning.

**Community Engagement**
- Develop and maintain a positive reputation as a community-minded student-driven organisation.
- Serve communities within Perth and regional Western Australia.
- Engage and advocate within Curtin (Faculties, Schools, staff).

**Leadership Development**
- Develop leadership skills and graduate capabilities of volunteers in a supportive and inclusive environment enabling them to develop their potential.

**Sustainability**
- Ensure that CV!’s operations are aligned to Curtin’s strategic direction.
- Make volunteering an integral part of student leadership and graduate capability development at Curtin.
- Operate under a financially sustainable model.
Programs and Projects

Deliver diverse and meaningful volunteer programs and/or projects that meet the needs of the communities CV! serves. Deliver volunteer programs and/or projects that provide a rewarding experience for students that enhance their classroom learning.

Key achievements
CV! ran a total of 178 volunteering activities, an increase of 24.5% from 2013. Activities spanned a wide range of ongoing and one-off opportunities in the areas of health, youth, environment, culture & communication, community development and Indigenous engagement.

1,819 volunteer positions, an increase of 46% from 2013, were filled by 943 individual volunteers. Of these, 808 volunteers identified themselves as students who represented seven different teaching areas/faculties. Volunteers took on a variety of roles that were intended to give students opportunities for experiential learning. Volunteers were surveyed upon completion of a program or project and of 193 respondents:
- 81% indicated that they developed their communication skills
- 76% indicated that they developed their ability to work in a team
- 73% indicated that they developed their cross-cultural knowledge and understanding

A highlight was CV!’s Remote & Indigenous Program which engaged 23 community stakeholders in five remote Western Australian communities. CV! assisted in the areas of community development and youth engagement. The diverse range of activities undertaken by volunteers included:
- Facilitating dynamic and engaging after school, weekend and school holiday programs for the local youth.
- Mentoring youth in schools in Laverton, Leonora and Wiluna.
- Helping out at community events and key local fundraisers.
- Visiting Leonora Hospital’s elderly permanent residents and Wiluna’s Home and Community Care clients, engaging them in social activities.
I would just like to thank the CV! crew for having me and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to go to Laverton twice during my stay in Perth. It is a definite highlight of my exchange, and I will most likely promote that aspect to future exchange students back home at Brock University in Canada!

It was an amazing and uplifting experience and I am looking forward to more volunteering with CV! :)

I hope CV! can continue to offer students the opportunity to be exposed to real life experiences, which can enable them to develop life skills that can’t be developed through sitting in a classroom.

Thanks so much for arranging all the activities. It was really a good opportunity for me as an exchange student in Perth to explore the other side of Australia and learn a lot by contributing to the local community.

This program was one of the best experiences I have had in my life, and I am thankful to CV! for letting me experience this part of Australia.
Community Engagement
Develop and maintain a positive reputation as a community-minded student-driven organisation.
Serve communities within Perth and regional Western Australia.
Engage and advocate within Curtin (Faculties, Schools, staff).

Key achievements
CV! engaged **115 diverse stakeholders**, 10 more than in 2013. They included **16 sponsors, 112 partner organisations** and **3 internal departments/groups**. Many of these relationships were established a number of years ago and this is a testament to the positive reputation CV! has cultivated in the community. Community Partner feedback was sought upon completion of ongoing programs and one-off projects and:

- Of 55 respondents **73% were very satisfied** with CV!’s contribution to the activity while **22% were satisfied**.
- Of 53 respondents, **100% would like to continue their relationship with CV!** and **would also recommend CV! to other organisations**.

CV!’s activities spanned Western Australia, with **94 activities taking place in Perth metropolitan** and **83 activities in regional/remote locations**.

**John Curtin Weekend 2014** saw over 400 CV! volunteers from the Bentley campus visit 30 regional, 7 metropolitan and 5 remote sites in WA to work with the community on various projects. They included environmental work, building maintenance and providing assistance at local fairs. Volunteers covered a combined distance of approximately 11,000km, utilising 34 buses and 4 planes. Adding further diversity and an element of cross-cultural exchange was the fact that the volunteers hailed from 35 different countries.
A wonderful community partnership with Curtin Volunteers! We value highly their contributions and willingness to participate in our program. THANK YOU!!

The commitment of the CV! volunteers is highly commendable. The difference they are making in the lives of young people at our college is invaluable.

We love the CV! volunteers and look forward to them coming each year.

Very helpful, very organised and a great sense of community! Well done!

The support of the CV! volunteers is incredibly helpful and beneficial to our programs. We love having the volunteers with us and the level of enthusiasm and commitment they bring is awesome.

Fantastic effort in what they do, a very valuable asset to the community of Laverton.
Leadership Development

Develop leadership skills and graduate capabilities of volunteers in a supportive and inclusive environment enabling them to develop their potential.

Key achievements

CV! had 132 volunteer leadership roles which were occupied by 96 Curtin students. Their roles were varied and were essential to the day-to-day operation of CV!. They included a President, Vice President, a marketing team, and activity coordinators and leaders. CV! simply would not function at its current capacity without them and in return for their commitment and dedication, they are provided with training and mentoring by CV! staff and get to take away invaluable real-world experience in stakeholder and project management.

Sustainability

Ensure that CV!’s operations are aligned to Curtin’s strategic direction. Make volunteering an integral part of student leadership and graduate capability development at Curtin.

Operate under a financially sustainable model.

Key achievements

CV! celebrated its 20th birthday with a morning tea officiated by Vice-Chancellor Professor Deborah Terry. The event celebrated the wonderful contributions of many individuals and also provided insight into CV!’s journey over the past two decades through a number of inspiring speeches.

CV! successfully secured support from a number of internal and external sources for general operations and program-specific expenses. They included in-kind and financial support from BHP Billiton, Shire of Wiluna, Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service, Lynas Corporation, Laverton Leonora Cross Cultural Association, Shire of Laverton, St Barbara Limited, Leonora Motor Inn, Shire of Yalgoo, Shire of Meekatharra, Indigenous Services Australia, Gudathada Walker, Rural Health West, Department of Education, Minara Foundation and Dell Inc..
Joining CV! was possibly the best life decision so far (apart from coming to uni) as I’ve learnt and experienced so many things I wouldn’t have otherwise.

I’ve gained quality leadership skills from this position and I think I’ll continue to learn so much more down the track. It’s been an amazing experience and I feel so much more confident about myself compared to when I first started. I have taken so many opportunities I never thought I would over the past year and I have not regretted one of them. Thanks to CV! and many other sources I am more willing to take on challenges and at least try before I say I can’t do it!!

A great program. I think CV! do a fantastic job and offer great opportunities to students on many levels.

Fantastic experience. I have gained so many skills like communication and leadership. Looking forward to my next event. I think I have much more confidence to be a leader in the future.