

# International Volunteer Day Report



# **International Volunteer Day (IVD) is an opportunity to celebrate and promote volunteering. The United Nations theme for IVD 2023 is ‘If Everyone Did’, recognising the power collective action can have on the world.**

Volunteering involves compassion and empathy, as well as hard work, determination and strength. Volunteering brings social and economic benefits to society. ‘If Everyone Did’ volunteer, then it’s likely the world would be a far more sustainable and peaceful place. As we watch emergencies unfold around the globe in the form of social conflict or environmental disasters, volunteers are often the first to respond. Whether in local communities or countries far away, volunteers are part of the fabric that weaves our world together. IVD is a chance to appreciate the often humble and silent volunteers who give their time with no financial return.

Volunteering is encompassed by the Community arm of our Pro Bono & Community practice at Hall & Wilcox. Hall & Wilcox proudly supports our people in giving back to our local communities through volunteering. Our volunteer opportunities include longstanding programs, such as mentoring high school students from low socio-economic backgrounds, as well as new initiatives such as the Graduate Volunteer Community Days. Many of our people give their time to better enable our communities to thrive.



**'It is extremely rewarding. It is a great way to improve your skills, learn about other's experiences or shared experiences. The students are great teachers too!'**

**First Nations program mentor**

## ABCN mentoring

The Australian Business and Community Network (**ABCN**) brings business and schools together for mentoring programs, exposing students from low socio-economic backgrounds to workplaces. Through a range of mentoring programs, students are able to work on their confidence, skills and build on their career aspirations.

Hall & Wilcox participates in 14 ABCN programs each year across four of our offices. Our Sydney office has volunteered in the recently established First Nations Goals program for the past two years. This innovative Careers program was co-designed with Aboriginal educators from the NSW Department of Education. The aim is to inspire, guide and support First Nations students in Year 9 to identify strengths, set goals, overcome challenges, develop leadership skills, and dream big!

Therese Dinh, Senior BD & Marketing Advisor at Hall & Wilcox, mentored a student as part of the Accelerate Scholarship program. This is a three-year program that targets exceptional students who are facing challenges that impact on their study or capacity to pursue their desired tertiary pathways. Volunteering on this program can have substantial impact and help change the direction of a young person's life.

Therese Dinh, said that 'every child should have access to opportunities that help them reach their potential, regardless of social-economic background. The ABCN connects students with mentors to develop their skills and aspirations so that they can thrive in their future workplace.

It is rewarding to see a young person build their confidence and achieve their goals'.



Our people volunteered  
**441.5 hours**  
on ABCN programs in 2023

## Graduate Volunteer Day

Each year, our graduate lawyers have the opportunity to participate in the Graduate Volunteer Day, where they spend a day volunteering in their local communities.

Our Melbourne graduate lawyers spend their Graduate Volunteer Day with Flying Fox on one of its camps. Flying Fox runs programs to build connections between people with disability and the community. They believe that, through education and shared experience, the barriers that prevent social inclusion can be broken down.



Our Newcastle law graduates volunteer with St Vincent De Paul in different activities, including sorting and delivering Christmas gift donations, as well as door knocking and spreading awareness about the organisation.

Our grads volunteered  
**135 hours**  
in 2022 at grad volunteer days





## Hall & Wilcox Community Fund

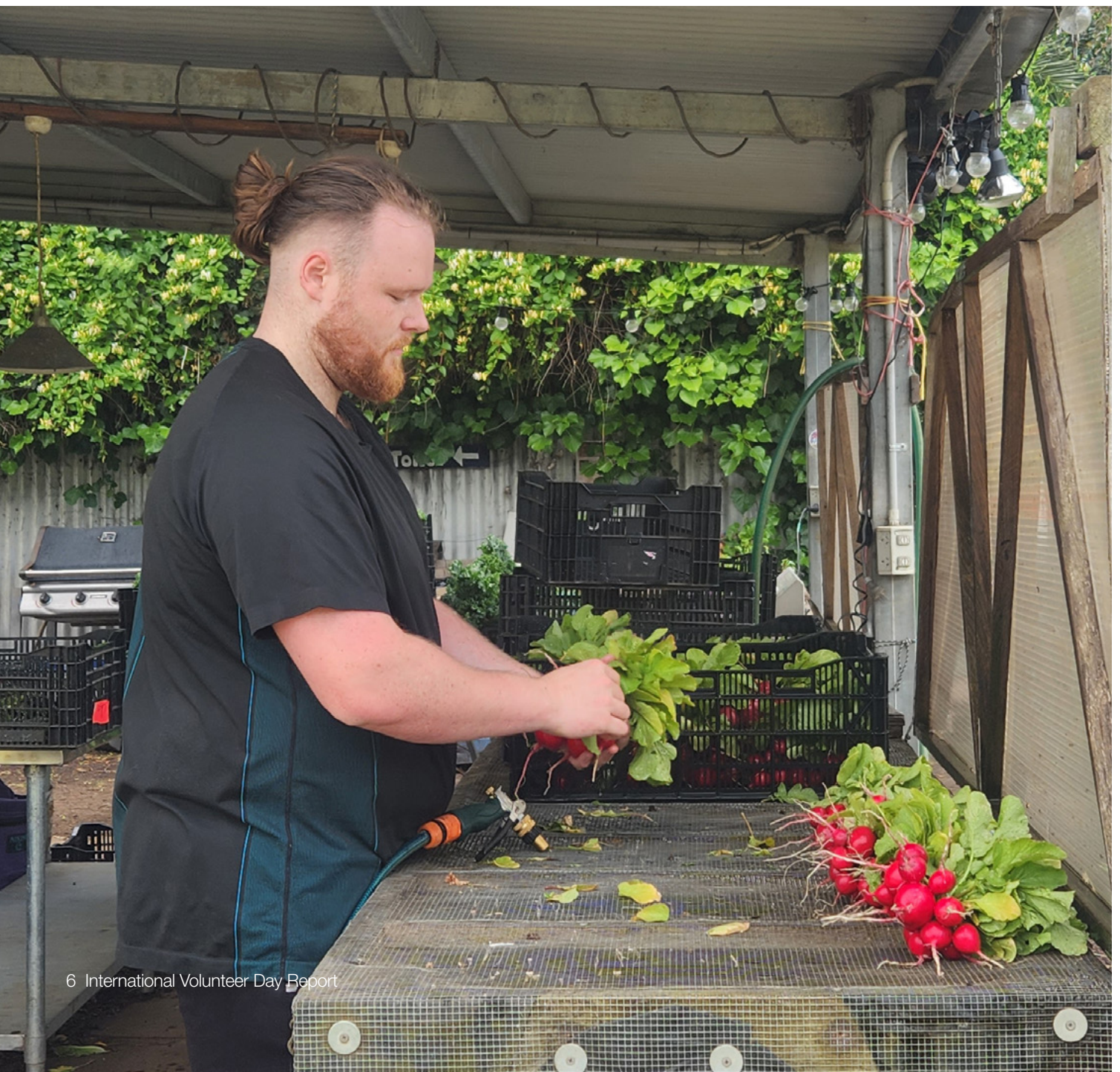
### HW Community Fund

The Hall & Wilcox Community Fund (the Fund) was launched in September 2023, with the vision to enable communities to thrive by supporting equality of opportunity, providing access to justice, and protecting human rights. The Fund has been strategically structured to set up Community Committees in each of our offices. These committees are geared with the task of organising local volunteering opportunities that will provide a social connection for our people with an intended purpose on being together while giving back.

The Melbourne Community Committee has volunteered at both Foodbank and Joe's Market Garden. Foodbank is Australia's largest food relief organisation, working alongside frontline charities to feed vulnerable Australians through a variety of programs, including their Foodbank buses. Our people spent the day providing communities with a dignified shopping experience by loading food on to one of these buses and then travelling to a location where they helped give out items on the bus, direct people along the aisle, pack bags and assist with carrying to their cars when necessary.



Joe's Market Garden is a part of CERES, a leading sustainable enterprise, with environmental education programs that relies solely on volunteers to keep it running. Our people were able to spend a day volunteering in the community garden clearing paths, weeding, cleaning produce, harvesting seeds, and learning about how the garden operates.





## Community engagement

Our Banking & Financial Services team in Sydney volunteered at Our Big Kitchen (OBK) where they came together to prepare meals for those in need. OBK is a community-run kitchen that undertakes food rescue to minimise waste and turn fresh produce into home-cooked meals. OBK relies on volunteers and local businesses to generously give their time and resources, with corporate teams being able to cook and package meals to do their part in giving back. Collectively, 45 meals were made to be distributed to disadvantaged Australians.

We have volunteered with Team Building for Purpose in their Starlight Children's Foundation 'Sparklers' session. People from our Sydney, Newcastle and Melbourne office have come together on separate occasions to build 'Sparkle' packs for sick kids in hospital, and to use the tools from the day to think about how they can better work as a team.

