



Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

State of Volunteering 2024 – Highlights

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State of Volunteering

- ▶ Biennial reports that focus on the state of volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand from the perspective of volunteers, organisations, and key stakeholders.
- ▶ Mixed methods research methodology.
- ▶ 1542 volunteer respondents and 420 community/voluntary organisations.
- ▶ SOV2020, SOV2022, Regional Report (2023)



Key Themes and Sections

- ▶ 1. The Changing Landscape of Volunteering
- ▶ 2. Motivations and Barriers for Volunteers
- ▶ 3. Challenges Facing Voluntary Organisations
- ▶ 4. Evolving Expectations for Volunteers and Voluntary Organisations
- ▶ 5. Ethical and Inclusive Volunteering



The Changing Landscape of Volunteering

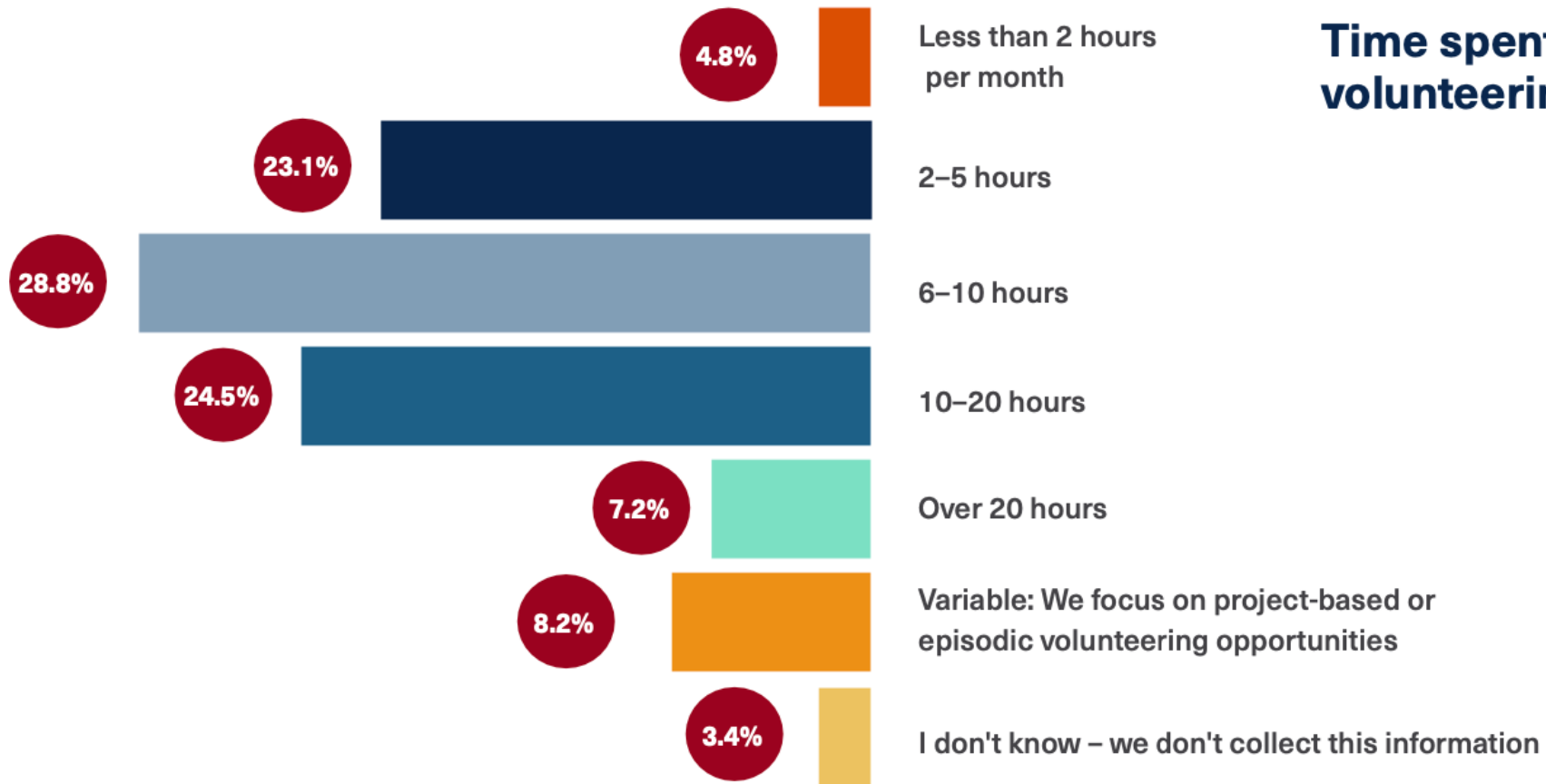
- ▶ Pressures from the cost of living.
- ▶ Changing civic core – Increase in casual volunteering. 23.1% of volunteers 2-5 hours of volunteer work per month, while only 7.2% perform 20 hours or more.
- ▶ Digitisation – 50.6% use no digital systems at all; 22.9% use only basic systems like Word or Excel.



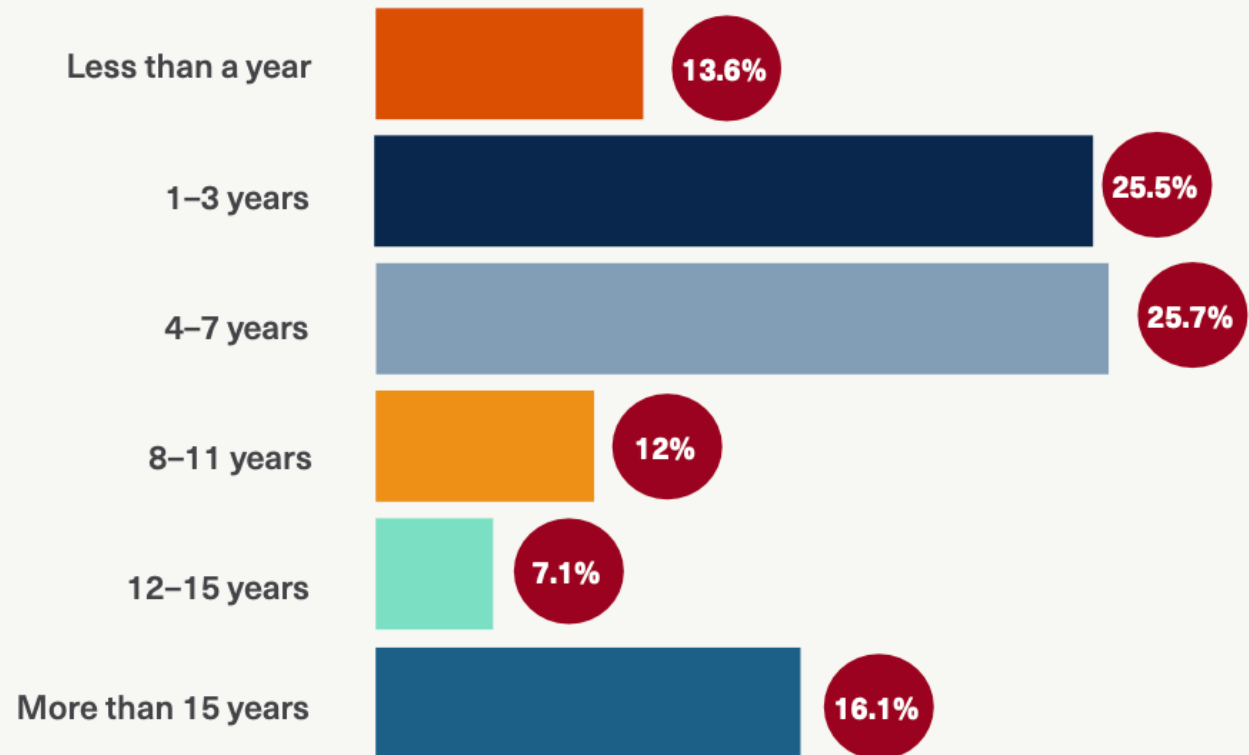


- ▶ “Our view is that most people can’t afford to volunteer their time anymore, due to the cost of living rising.”
- ▶ “Many younger people would like to do voluntary work but need to work full-time to meet household expenses.”
- ▶ “Current economic conditions have affected volunteer availability”

Time spent volunteering



Length of time volunteering with an organisation



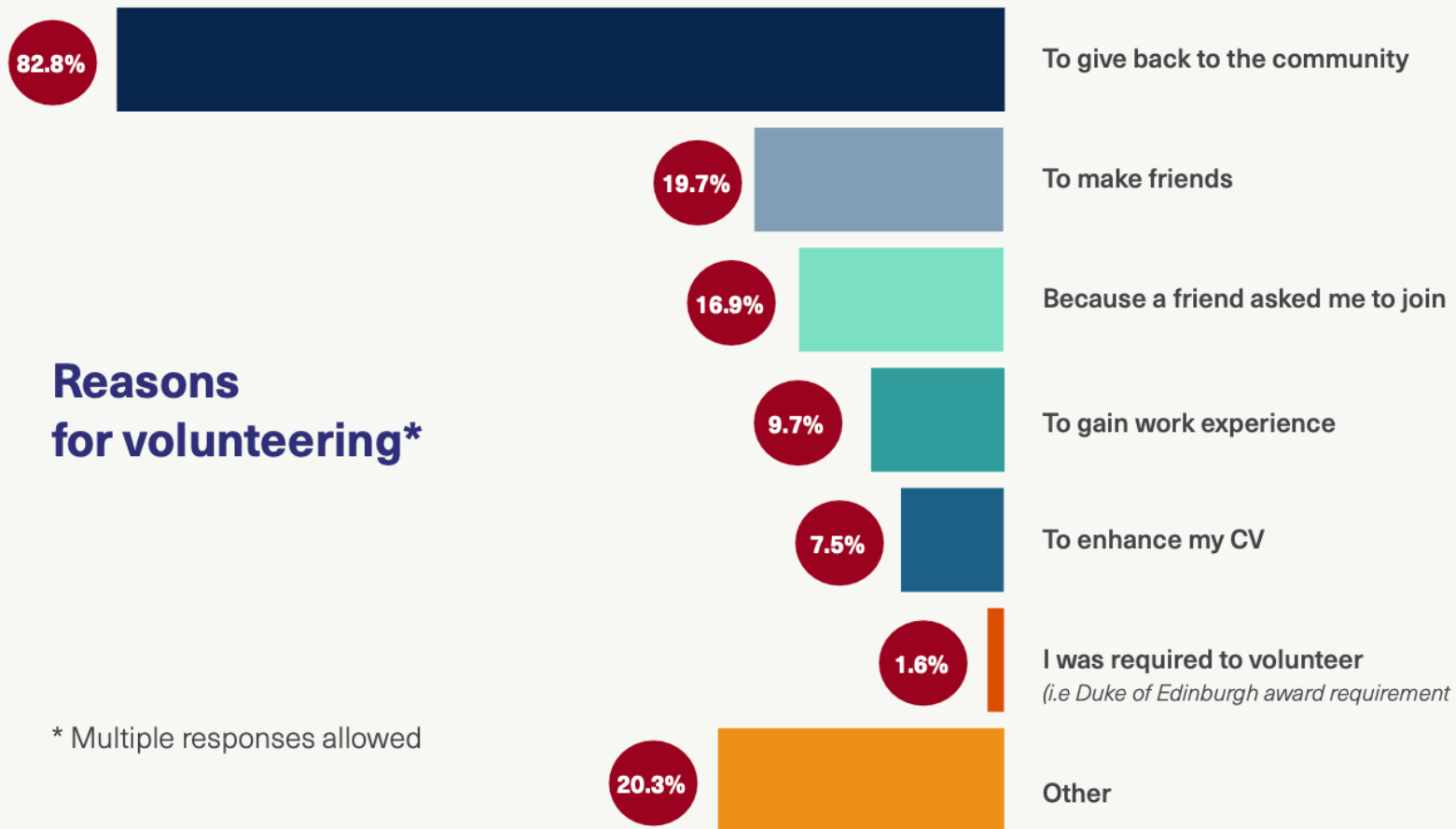


Motivations and Barriers for Volunteers

- ▶ 82.8% volunteer to give back to the community.
- ▶ Personal nature of volunteering motivations.
- ▶ Private hobbies as motivations.

- ▶ Health and Safety concerns as barriers.
- ▶ Reimbursement and recognition.

Reasons for volunteering*



* Multiple responses allowed



Social and Personal Motivations

- ▶ “My friend died of cancer 20 years ago, and ever since I have volunteered for cancer-related causes.”
- ▶ “I was helped by [the organisation] 23 years ago. Since that fateful day, I have wanted to volunteer to give back and to thank them for what they did for me.”
- ▶ “I volunteer to keep active.”
- ▶ “[Volunteering] has improved my anxiety.”



Barriers to Volunteering

- ▶ Cost of living crisis (including regional variations).
- ▶ Emotional toll of some volunteering activities
- ▶ Health and safety concerns
- ▶ Bureaucratic and administrative toll



Challenges Facing Organisations

- ▶ Bureaucracy and administrative tasks.
- ▶ Funding challenges.
- ▶ Ageing volunteers – 49.8% of organisations report this as among their biggest challenges (increase since 2022).
- ▶ Not enough volunteers – 51.7% report this as among their biggest challenges (increase since 2022)
- ▶ Turnover rates and regional disparities.

How much of an organisation's workforce has left in the last 12 months

None

20.6%

5-10%

48.4%

11-15%

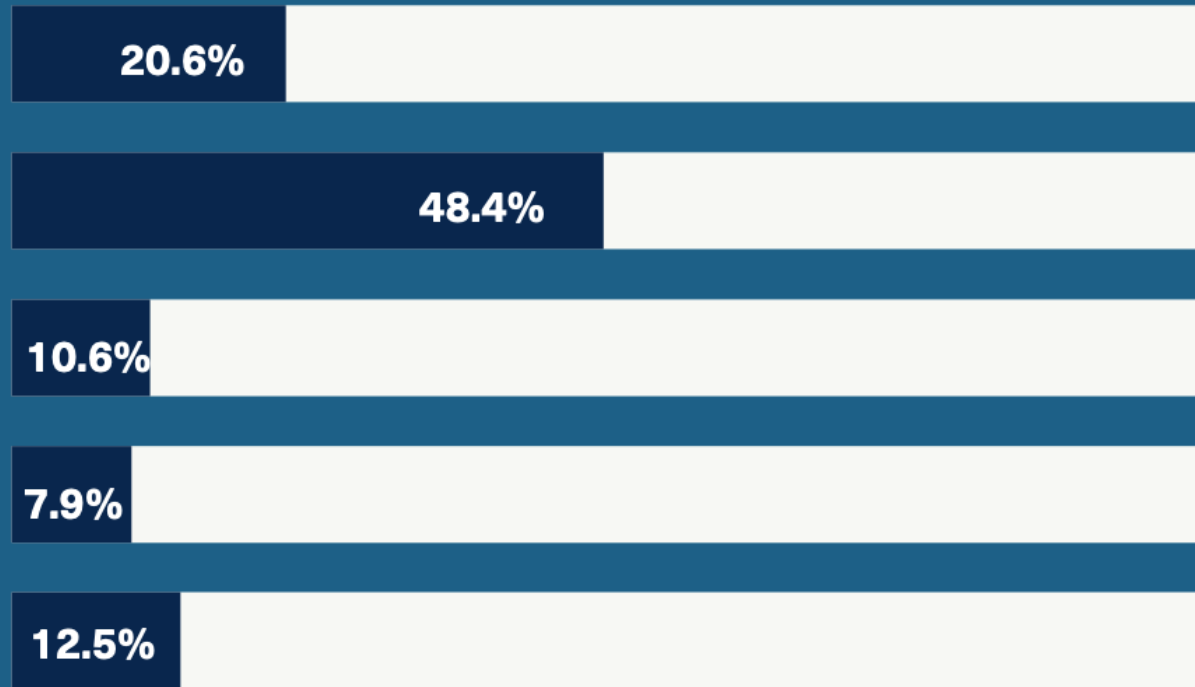
10.6%

16-20%

7.9%

Over 20%

12.5%



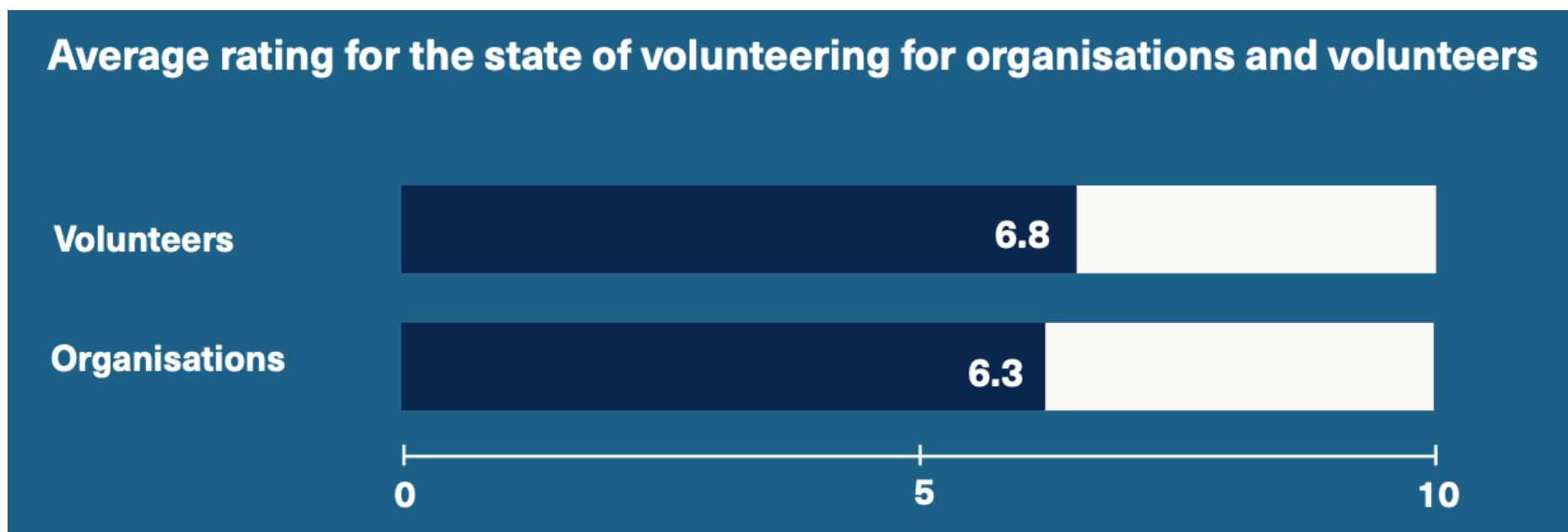


Evolving Expectations and Attitudes

- ▶ Demands that volunteering should be 'fun' and 'not like work'.
- ▶ Skilled-based volunteering.
- ▶ Rhetoric of volunteering as an obligation.
- ▶ Post-Covid landscape has driven volunteers towards health-related volunteering causes.



- ▶ SOV – 6.8/10 for volunteers and 6.3/10 for organisations.





Ethical and Inclusive Volunteering

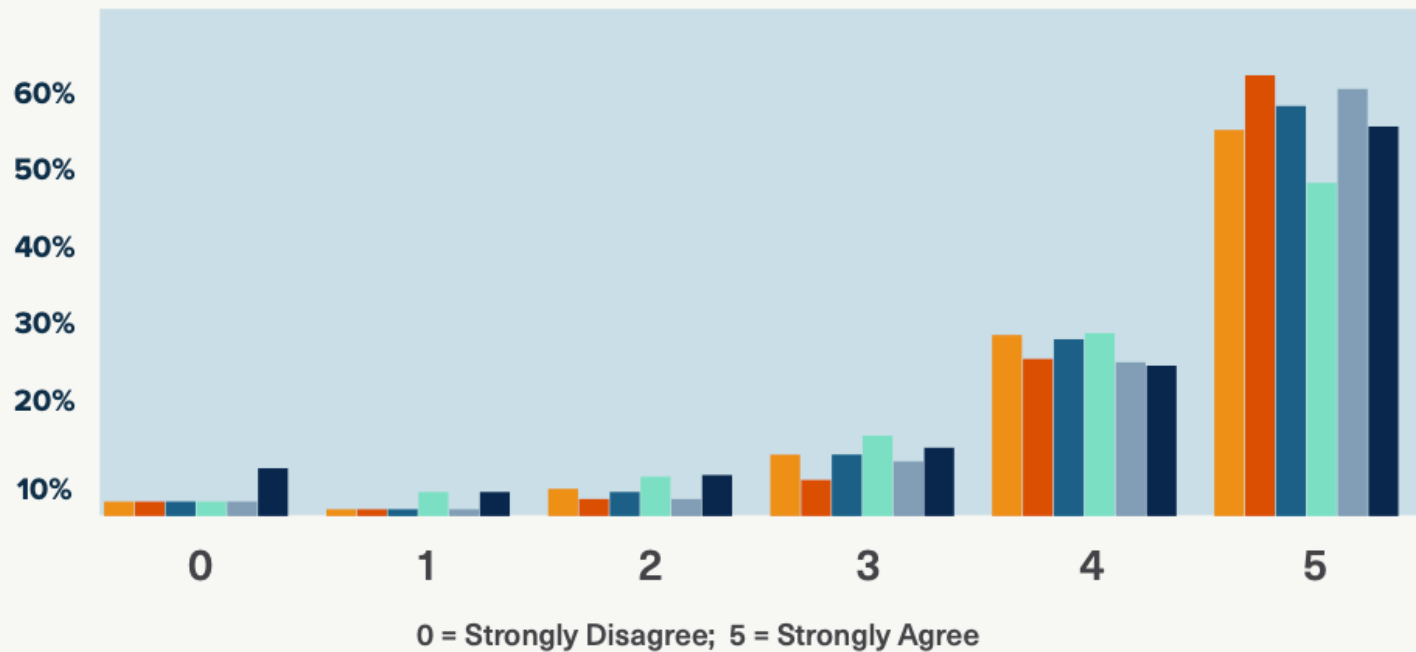
- ▶ Majority enjoy volunteering and feel respected and valued.
- ▶ Volunteers <26 years less valued; volunteers >76 years more valued.
- ▶ Māori volunteers most valued; Asian volunteers least valued.
- ▶ Māori most likely to give SOV 10/10.



Percentage of volunteers who agree with the statements

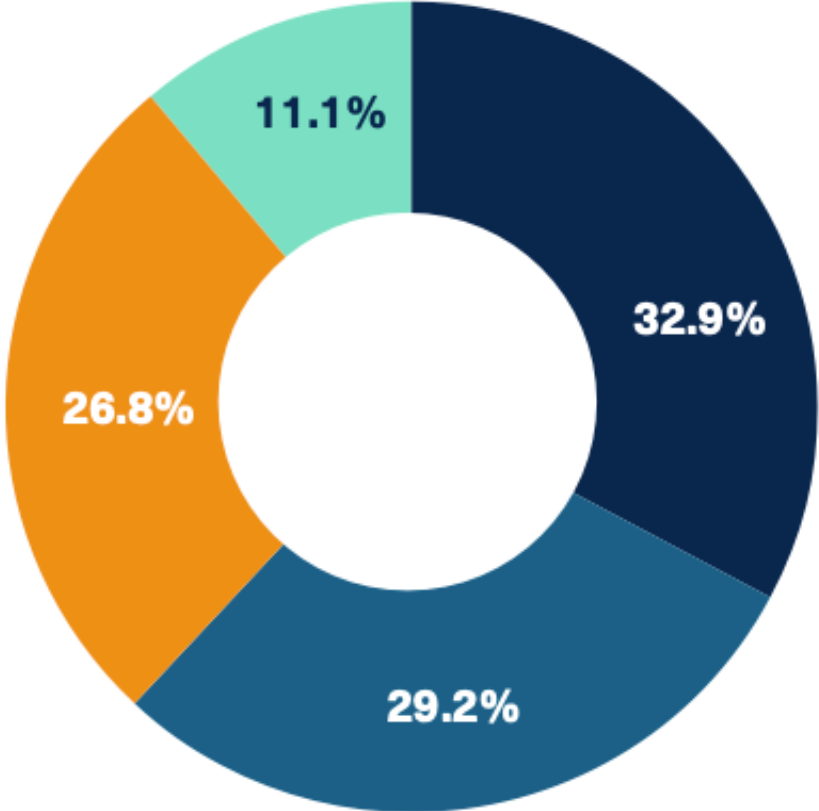
When survey respondents were asked a series of questions about how they feel about volunteering, the majority strongly agreed with the statements (5 out of a 0-5 scale).

- My skills and experience are valued at the organisation
- I am able to connect with the community/ communities
- I enjoy volunteering with the organisation
- I am treated fairly and respectfully
- I feel my work has a positive impact on the community
- I feel like I belong to the organisation



Volunteer organisations that reflect the diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand

- Reflect many aspects of Aotearoa, New Zealand's diversity, but still room for improvement
- Very diverse volunteer workforce drawn from all sections of society
- Reflect some aspects of Aotearoa, New Zealand's diversity, but volunteers are not drawn from all sections of society.
- Do not reflect the diversity of Aotearoa, New Zealand





Recommendations

- ▶ The need for regular population-level data about volunteering.
- ▶ Funding cycles over a longer time horizon.
- ▶ Revising volunteer practices and processes to meet changing times and challenges.
- ▶ Strategic volunteer engagement, retention, and management.

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Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

Tūao manaaki whanaungatanga e manawaroa ai.

Volunteering of care, of nurturing growth and enduring relationships.

Empowering volunteers to enrich Aotearoa.