



Job description: Senior Social Innovator (Australian Volunteers Program partnership)

Location: Melbourne

Employment status: 12 month fixed term, with opportunity to extend

Terms: Full time

Salary band: \$100K-\$130K pro rata dependant on successful applicant's experience

We encourage applications from all backgrounds, communities and industries, and are committed to having a team that is made up of diverse skills, experiences and abilities. We welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, mature-age people and people with disability, regardless of sex, sexuality or gender identity.

Who We Are?

The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working across Australia. We partner with communities and organisations to put people at the heart of shaping their lives and society. Together, we tackle big social challenges and build the conditions for social Innovation.

About the Australian Volunteer Program partnership

The [Australian Volunteers Program](#) (AVP) matches a broad range of skilled Australians with partner organisations in 26 countries across the Indo-Pacific region. Their role is to support their partners to achieve their own development goals. The program uses international volunteering as a people-centred approach to capacity development.

In 2017, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) allocated funds to innovation in volunteering. They wanted to find new ways to better meet the development needs of organisations and volunteers who are part of the Australian Volunteers Program. Thus, the program's [Innovation Hub](#) (formerly the Innovation Fund) was born.

TACSI was initially engaged to support the design and development of the Innovation Hub. Since then, TACSI has become the Hub's Innovation Partner, supporting them to design and test new ideas to increase the impact of the program and to build their innovation capability.

The Innovation Hub engages current and returned volunteers, program staff and Australian & international partner organisations to guide, inspire, refine and deliver a broad range of innovation activities.

What's the Role?

You will join a small TACSI team working (located nationally) in partnership with the Australian Volunteers Program's Innovation Hub.

As part of the team you will participate in and co-lead the design, management and delivery of innovation projects and initiatives that create positive outcomes for the Australian Volunteers Program. You will work closely with teams in Australia but also internationally across the 26 countries in which they work.

You will contribute to the development of new relationships, networks, ideas and business that enable TACSI to realise our purpose and strategy.

A commitment to both individual and peer growth and learning is core to all roles within the TACSI network. Participation in the Growth Horizons and Buddy Programs, and other core learning routines is essential.

Key Responsibilities

- Co-lead the design, management and delivery of innovation projects
- Work collaboratively, and in close partnership, with AVP's Innovation Hub team and with the TACSI team including the Partnership Lead.
- Develop engaging workshop and learning experiences, primarily online, to build the capability of AVP and its partners
- Provide coaching and mentoring to culturally diverse teams to develop their ideas and build their innovation capability
- Create clear and effective visual tools to communicate complex ideas, systems and services
- Maintain and grow stakeholder relationships within AVP
- Be a strong ambassador for TACSI's brand, purpose, work and learning

A note:

This role, located in Melbourne, will see you join our early journey in creating and building our Melbourne presence. You will have the opportunity to co-locate with the client and in our co-working space with a small number of TACSI people as we expand.

What you'll bring to the role and TACSI

You are a self starter who is comfortable working both collaboratively in a team as well as independently and autonomously. You possess the ability to see the gaps and opportunities for support at both a project level and an organisational level. Your solid design experience is matched with a strong awareness of current social issues.

You have a genuine energy, passion and commitment to working in the social sector and on society's most important challenges. You demonstrate empathy and self-care to both those you serve and also your colleagues and peers. You have excellent interpersonal skills, high levels of emotional intelligence, and an ability to work within a dynamic sometimes ambiguous day to day environment. You have an unrelenting belief that people are the experts of their own experience. This comes through in your work and the way in which you influence those with power.

You bring rich practice in working with community members to imagine, design and implement solutions that work for them and a broader community. You hold a learning mindset that can adjust, be creative, adapt and contribute to the community-led ambition of this work. You are adept at sitting in uncertainty and can hold and lead others through it; to help build perspectives on complexity, seeing patterns and supporting others to build connections.

All of this, you do with humility, humour and an ability to inspire and influence. You have a practical and outcomes-oriented approach and you can put ideas into practice. You set challenging and realistic goals with clear measures of success.

If you were in this role this week you would have:

- co-designed and delivered an immersive prototyping masterclass with AVP in-country teams
- contributed to the weekly team meeting
- coached an in-country team to develop their idea for a local volunteering model
- documented a recent 'pitch night' prototype that you co-designed and delivered to test a new approach for matching, and developing relationships between, Australian volunteers and in-country partner organisations.

Key Capabilities & Experience

- At least 5 years design and/or social innovation experience
- Tertiary qualification in design, related field or equivalent experience
- Extensive knowledge of the design & innovation process
- Demonstrated experience in designing and crafting experiences
- Experience working with culturally diverse stakeholders
- Project & time management skills
- International development or volunteering experience is desirable but not essential

Working at TACSI

TACSI is a fast-paced environment where people from diverse disciplines, ages and experiences come together to tackle complex social issues and build the conditions for social innovation – all while helping each other learn and grow.

Working with TACSI offers a unique opportunity to deepen and broaden your skills, create

a positive impact in people's lives, and learn from the rich knowledge and experience of our network.

As a team, we all share a deep and genuine commitment to seeing more people, in more ways, thriving across their lives. Few other organisations offer the opportunity to pioneer and refine a new way of creating positive social change. You'll be able to put your name (alongside your colleagues) to the creation, implementation and scale of new solutions and approaches that enable people to live their best life.

We also offer:

- Flexible work practices in a genuinely supportive environment.
- Dedicated time for professional development and learning.
- A professional development allowance.
- A co-working space in Melbourne
- A bright and spacious head office in the central city of Adelaide.
- A cosy workspace in the city of Sydney.
- Recognition program for positive feedback.
- A welcoming team with a sense of fun!