

Factors affecting volunteering among older rural and city dwelling adults in Australia

Author/s: Warburton, J. Stirling, C. | **Year:** 2007 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Social Inclusion, Not Specific to CALD

Reference:

Key Words:

model, volunteering, social capital, characteristics

Research aim:

In the absence of large scale Australian studies of volunteering among older adults, this study compared the relevance of two theoretical approaches-social capital theory and sociostructural resources theory-to predict voluntary activity in relation to a large national database. The paper explores volunteering by older people (aged 55+) in order to assess differences in volunteering in the Australian context.

Results/Conclusion:

Overall, these results suggest (a) that reliance on bivariate analysis for understanding volunteering may hide a more complex picture associated with older people volunteering, and (b) that neither social capital theory nor sociostructural resource theory adequately predicts volunteering by older Australians, but that generational theories may provide added strength to future analyses.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Not specific to CALD (migrant status used as a social capital variable)

Location of study:

Australia (national)

Age group:

55+

Number included in study:

4,792

Type of participants:

Data from the General Social Survey 2000 Confidentialised Unit Record Files, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics - nationally representative sample of people aged 18+, this study included those aged 54+ at the point of the survey

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary

Secondary data sources used:

General Social Survey 2000 Confidentialised Unit Record Files

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: