

# Migrants and Volunteering in New Zealand

A research study for the voluntary sector of New Zealand

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# Executive Summary: Volunteering helps migrants to settle into New Zealand by building social cohesion through a sense of contribution and belonging.

## Background

- Migrants make up 25% of the New Zealand population. They are defined as those who are born overseas but living in New Zealand. With more than 300 migrants arriving on a daily basis since 2013, the migrant population is growing at 11% annually, which makes it the fastest growing demographic group in New Zealand.
- Volunteering is fundamental to the functioning of society in New Zealand. According to United Kingdom's Charitable Aid Foundation New Zealand rates among the top ten nations engaged in volunteering in the world with 41% of people volunteering in the month prior to interview.
- The peak body for volunteering - [Volunteering New Zealand](#) collaborated with Cultural Connections - a multicultural research and consulting firm to better understand the way new migrants engage with volunteering.

## Research Methodology

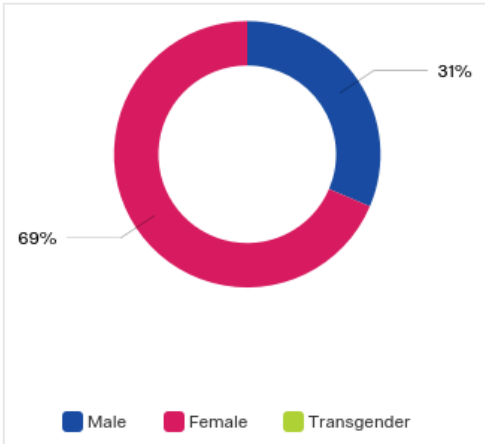
- Online quantitative survey with a target sample of 50 responses. Actual sample size is 91 responses which equates to 95% confidence interval with 10.27% margin of error.
- No incentives were offered to survey participants.

## Top Line Insights

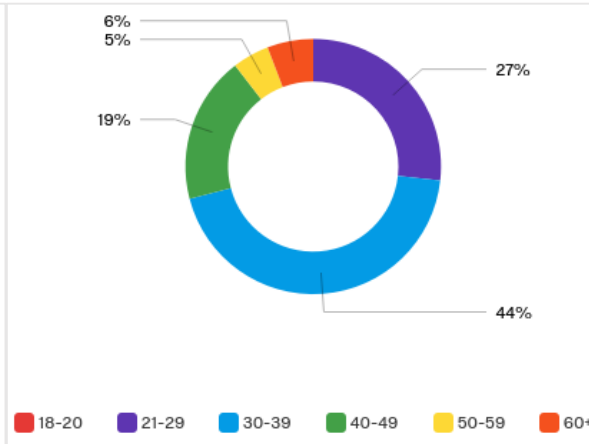
- **Volunteering information:** Different ethnic groups have different ways of finding out about volunteering, eg 67% of European migrants found out via family/friends, whilst 43% of Filipinos found out via volunteering websites.
- **Volunteering motivation:** 78% is motivated by intrinsic purpose (ie contributing to society) and 54% is motivated by social purpose (ie meeting new friends). 49% stated gaining local work experience and learning about NZ culture as their motivation to volunteer.
- **Volunteering experience:** 1 in 3 migrants volunteered in first 12 months of their arrival. 7 out of 10 migrants would recommend volunteering to others.
- **Volunteering benefits:** Sense of contribution (71%), learning new skills (61%), and sense of belonging (59%).
- **Volunteering barriers:** Lack of time, knowing where to source reliable info, and inconvenient location of volunteering.

We collected 91 responses in the span of 20 days. More than half had volunteering experience in birth country, and 1 in 3 migrants volunteered in first 12 months of arrival.

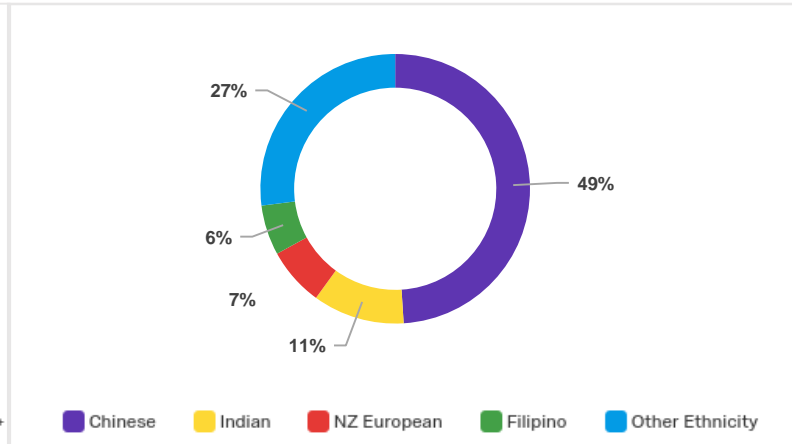
Gender



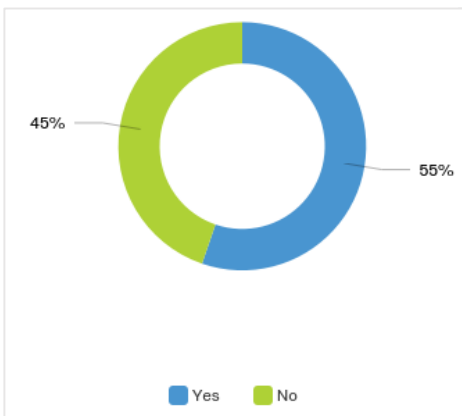
Age



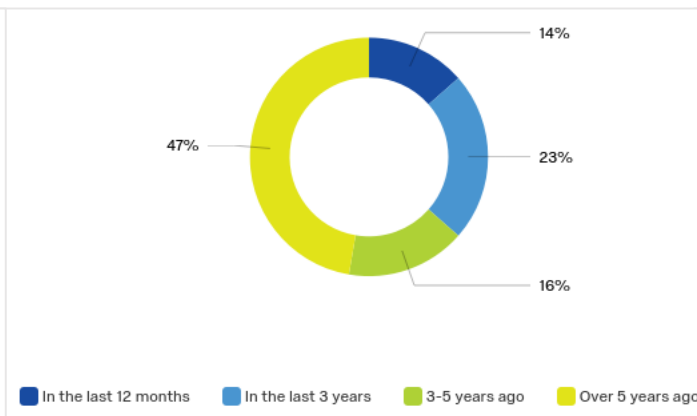
Ethnicity



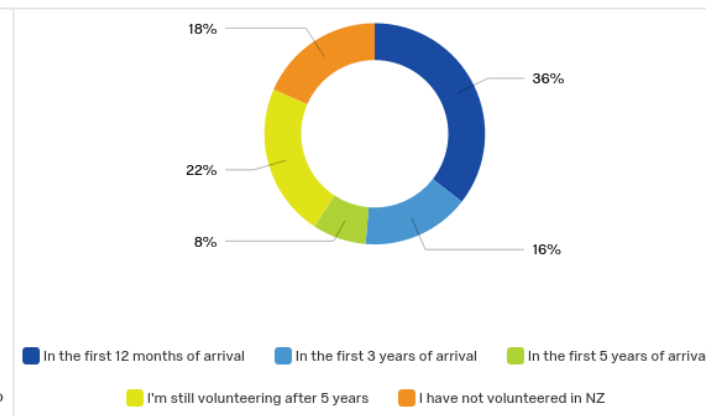
Volunteering in birth country



Length of time in NZ

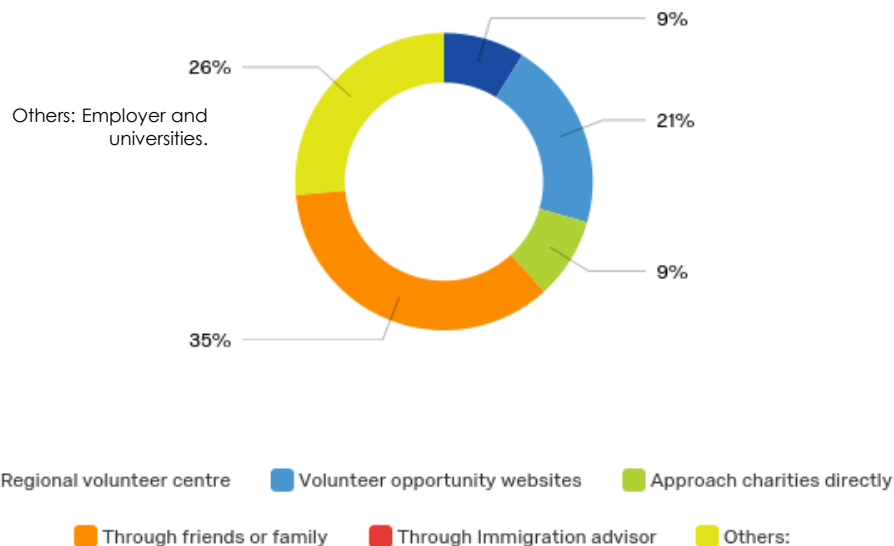


Volunteering in NZ



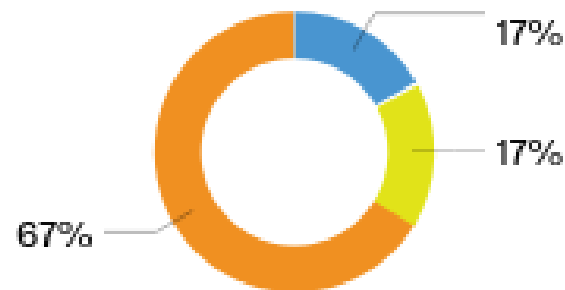
**1 in 3 migrants found out about volunteering through friends or family, particular for those with a NZ European background. Only a small proportion of new migrants engage directly with charities to find their volunteering opportunities.**

Q2.10 How did you find out about the organisation that you volunteered for?



**NZ European**

n = 17



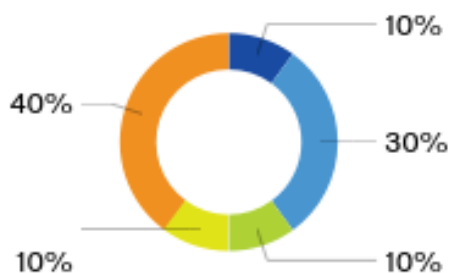
**Chinese**

n = 44



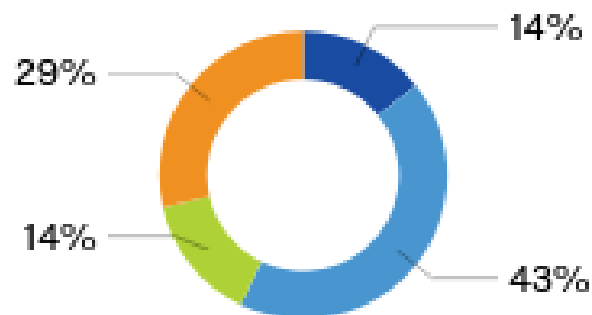
**Indian**

n = 10

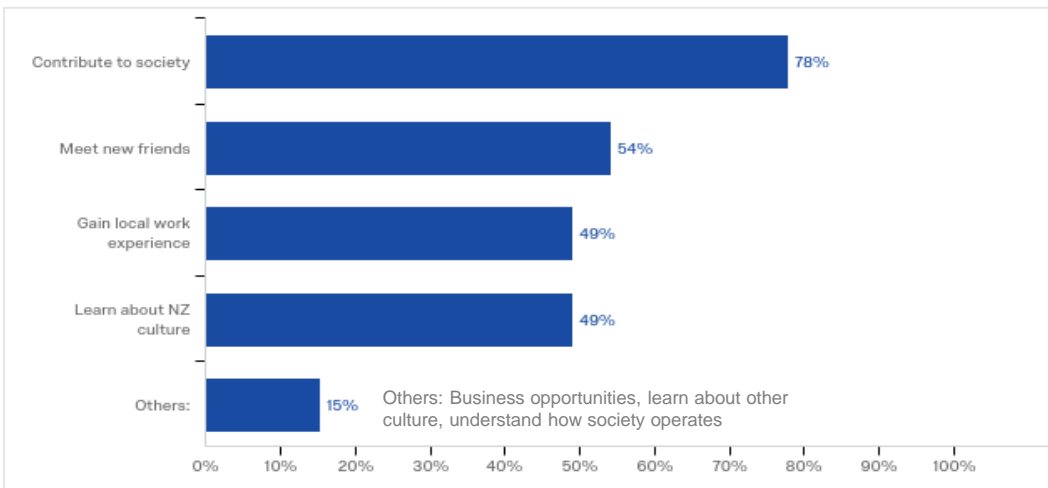


**Filipino**

n = 5

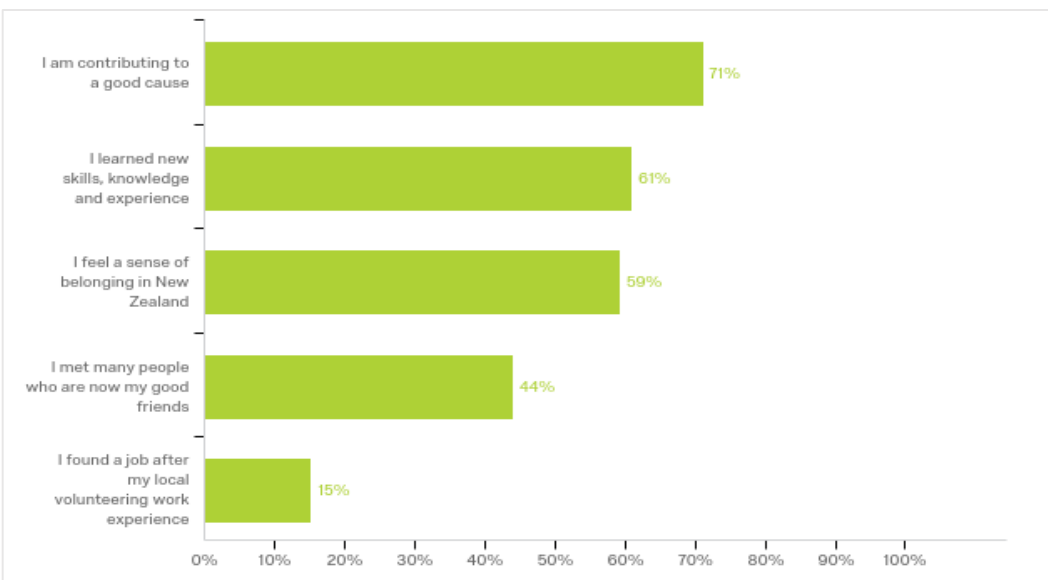


# More than 3 in 4 migrants volunteered for intrinsic and social reasons, whilst 1 in 2 migrants volunteered in hope to gain local work experience.



**Reasons for volunteering:** more than 3 out of 4 migrants volunteered because they wanted to contribute to society.

1 in 2 migrants volunteered either to meet new friends, to gain local work experience or to learn about NZ culture.



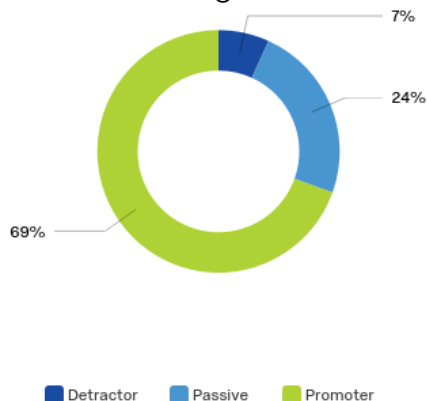
**Benefits of volunteering:** The #1 motivation for volunteering is aligned with the #1 felt benefits of volunteering, ie contributing to society or for a good cause.

3 out of 5 migrants felt a sense of belonging from volunteering.

There is a gap between employment as a reason for volunteering (49%) and felt benefits (15%).

## Experience and Barriers: 7 out of 10 migrants would recommend volunteering. The top 3 most common barriers are time, knowing where to source reliable info, and volunteering location.

Q2.12 - How likely are you to recommend volunteering to others?



Q2.13 - What has made it difficult for your to volunteer in New Zealand? (open ended)

目前不是很感兴趣，没有什么时间 (Lack of interest and time)

time

Being the main family income for the whole time.

I have some motor problems in my left leg. My studies before are very busy.

Not familiar with volunteering activities and have limited time to engage

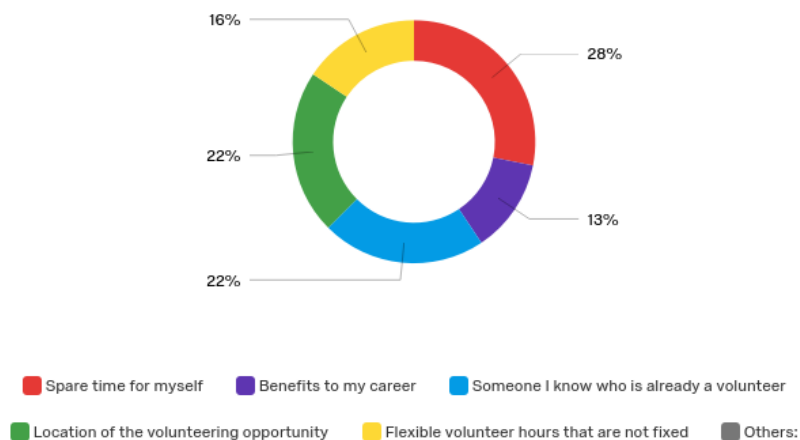
I don't know any information.

not much information and channels

I don't know where to find info about being a volunteer in NZ

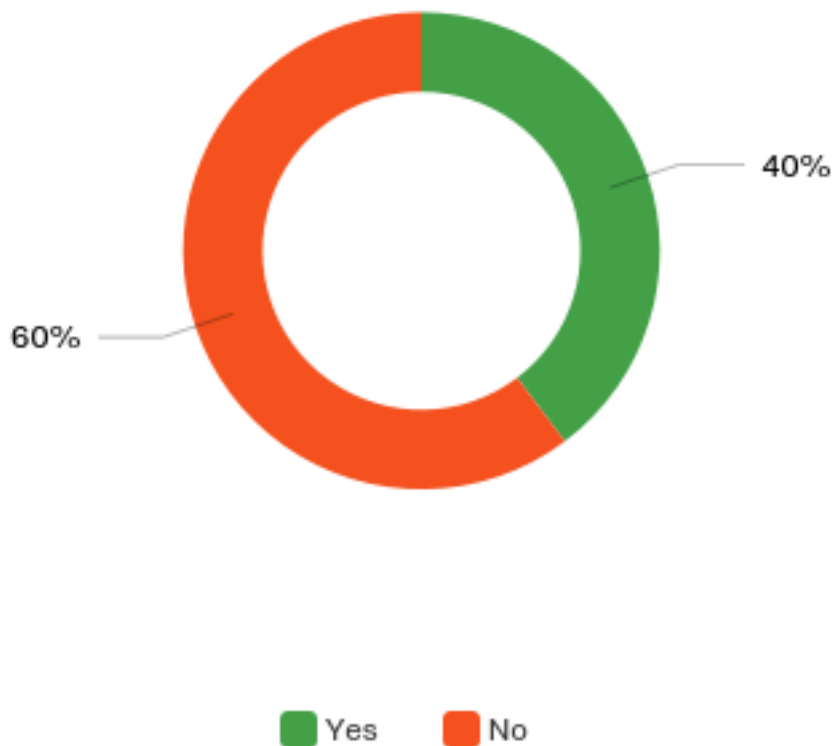
Only do volunteer hours through work

Q2.14 - What will encourage you to consider volunteering in New Zealand?



# 2 in 3 migrants have never heard of Volunteering NZ, with many suggestions to improve awareness via advertising and promotion.

Q2.15 - Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) supports an association of Volunteer Centres and organisations with a commitment to volunteering. Have you heard of Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ)?



Do you have any feedback for Volunteering New Zealand?

Connect with other migrant organisations and collaborate

Need a bit more communication with chinese communities, in order to let chinese communities know more about volunteering New Zealand

No

Thanks for promoting volunteering

Need to promote volunteering nz as some new comers does not know about them

Thank you! Without your hardwork of compiling volunteering opportunities, volunteering in NZ would be most likely that of in the Philippines.

Experience gained through volunteering has to bring a real plus to the volunteer and should not be work disguised. I have heard too many stories of people who have ended up working in a shop etc. which has nothing to do with volunteering according to me

No

I would like to know more of what you guys do

Workshops on volunteering, work with universities to build a partnership

Advertise if possible

I think VNZ is doing their best . But I think many new migrants are unaware of it. So it needs to be a bit a more active in advertising and through social media it can reach more new migrants.

Having on-ground representatives who represent the face of VNZ. Be not just a phone /email service but to have local representatives on the ground who have their ears on the pulse in community

It has to be clear that volunteering is a winwin situation. Volunteers from foreign countries need to know about the benefit and need support.

Showing Records: 1 - 14 Of 14



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