

Active citizenship

Active citizenship is a concept frequently used to describe citizens that engage in a broad range of activities that promote and sustain democracy. These actions include civil society activities such as protesting and collecting petitions, community activities such as volunteering, and conventional political engagement such as voting or campaigning for elections. In addition to participation, there is a normative value element to active citizenship. Active citizenship usually refers to participation that requires respect for others and that does not contravene human rights and democracy.

Active citizens do many ‘things’ to improve the lives of others. They contribute to social justice in their community by taking action on issues in order to make a difference. They question the way things are done. Active citizenship can be demonstrated globally, nationally and locally.

Global examples of active citizen groups working together include international organisations such as **Oxfam**, **The Red Cross** and **Teachers without Borders**.

National groups working for the common good include events such as **Clean Up Australia Day**, **Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea** and the annual **Red Shield Appeal**.

Local active citizens may work within a school committee, church group, community organisation or with the local council to make change in the immediate community. An example of this would be identifying and advocating to the local council to provide additional facilities such as a new school due to population growth in the area.

Schools further provide authentic opportunities for students to become active citizens. Being involved in the student representative council, taking on a school captain position or participating in peer mentoring programs allow students to develop the aforementioned skills such as uniting, connecting and making change...

Additional information

Oxfam is a confederation of 20 independent [charitable organizations](#) focusing on the alleviation of global [poverty](#), founded in 1942. Oxfam is a global movement of people, working together to end the injustice of poverty. That means we **tackle the inequality that keeps people poor**. Together, we save, protect and rebuild lives when disaster strikes. We help people build better lives for themselves, and for others. We take on issues like land rights, climate change and discrimination against women. And we won't stop until every person on the planet can enjoy life free from poverty.

The **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** is an international [humanitarian](#) movement with approximately 97 million [volunteers](#), members and staff worldwide, which was founded to protect the life and dignity of the victims of international and internal armed conflicts, to prevent and alleviate human suffering. It was founded in 1863 in [Geneva, Switzerland](#).

Teachers Without Borders (*TWB*) is an international organization launched in 2000 with a mission to connect teachers to information

and each other in order to close the education divide and based upon the premise that teachers are community change agents and key catalysts of global development priorities. The organization was founded by [Dr. Fred Mednick](#), a former principal.

Clean Up Australia Day is held on the first Sunday of March every year and encourages people to clean up their local areas. Any person can register a place they plan to clean up on the Clean Up Australia website and others can join them there. Activities on the day include removing large items such as car bodies from water ways and the collection of general waste lying around.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (ABMT) is an opportunity for you and your friends, family or workmates to come together, share a cuppa, some delicious food, and help those affected by cancer. Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a chance for Australians to get together and raise money for a great cause.

The Red Shield Appeal is the **The Salvation Army**, which is an international Christian movement, united by faith and giving hope where it's needed most. Across Australia – in cities, country towns and rural communities – our work touches every demographic and age group. We're involved in national issues while also bringing hope to people who may be experiencing hardship or injustice. Since our foundations in nineteenth century London, we express our faith in charitable work to provide both the spiritual and the social support.