



Biddy Prendergast and Barbara Maneli help match volunteers to organisations.

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Perfect match for volunteers

A NEW program pairing volunteers with community organisations that need their skills has been set up in Manningham.

The Volunteering in Manningham (ViM) service allows prospective volunteers to choose an area they wish to work in – such as the arts, conservation or human rights – and connects them to an organisation in that field.

Volunteers can also nominate people they would like to work with, such as children, the elderly or people with disabilities.

The program was created by Doncare, Manningham Centre Association, Manningham Community Health Services and the Migrant Information Service, in partnership with Manningham Council and volunteer organisations.

Doncare chief executive Doreen Stoves said the service would ensure a volunteer's talents were taken into account.

“For example, it allows people to use skills from their professional life when volunteering, a retired accountant could offer an organisation help managing finances,” Ms Stoves said.

“Volunteers can gain experience or training, as well as being able to develop or practise new skills.”

Ms Stoves said ViM also aimed to provide peer support for volunteers through a “buddy system”.

Barbara Maneli, who volunteers two days a week at a Doncaster opportunity shop, said the social aspect of volunteering was an unexpected bonus.

“I think we do it just to help other people, but you also meet new people and new friends as well,” Ms Maneli said.

For more information, visit www.vim.org.au or phone Doncare on 9841 4215.