



## Volunteer GardenMate

### Position Objective

To provide basic maintenance, skilled gardening and conversational opportunities for people who are frail aged or have a disability, and/or those who care for them.

### Key Responsibilities and Duties

The GardenMate Volunteer will need to:

- Volunteer an agreed period of time on a regular basis to provide maintenance of the client's garden and not engage in activities outside the scope of the role
- Be able to build a friendship with the client and encourage social interaction
- Follow the guidelines of the GardenMates program
- Monitor the wellbeing of the client and liaise with the Volunteer Program Coordinator if there are any concerns or issues that arise
- Apply SPDL policies and procedures while undertaking the volunteer role, especially in relation to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and reporting incidents, Anti-Discrimination and Privacy and Confidentiality policies.
- Be able to apply an active ageing approach to working with older people
- Recognise the ability of a person with a disability and support them to reach their potential
- Behave in an appropriate respectful manner at all times and report any inappropriate behaviour by clients or others to the Volunteer Program Coordinator
- Be aware of SPDL's Employment Assistance Program (EAP) and speak to the Volunteer Program Coordinator or General Manager confidentially should they believe they need personal support
- Report any genuine concerns in relation to a client's emotional or physical health or situations of elder abuse

## **Specialist Skills and Knowledge**

The GardenMate Volunteer will need to:

- Have the capacity to carry out basic garden maintenance of the client's garden, assess and call for assistance if other maintenance tasks are required outside the scope of the role
- Undertake the role by complying with OHS requirements and reporting any incidents or risks to the Volunteer Program Coordinator
- Be able to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds
- Maintain a calm manner and communicate concerns in a reasonable manner
- Be trustworthy, reliable and responsible in undertaking the role
- Have the ability to respond appropriately to emergency situations and report these if they occur

## **Qualifications and Experience**

The GardenMate Volunteer will have:

- Experience in, and enthusiasm for gardening
- A genuine desire to engage with older people, people with a disability and those who care for them
- Awareness of manual handling and apply these techniques while volunteering

## **Conditions of Volunteer**

- The position as a GardenMate is a voluntary one.
- An allowance of \$5 per visit may be made or donate it back to SPDL
- GardenMate Volunteers should expect regular support and contact from the SPDL Volunteer Program Coordinator
- Not be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any substance (including prescription drugs) that could impact on their ability and put themselves or other people at risk

## **Key Selection Criteria**

The GardenMate Volunteer will need to have:

- A genuine interest in gardening
- A demonstrated interest in older people and people with a disability
- A capacity to provide support and friendship to clients on a professional and ongoing basis
- A willingness to sign an agreement with SPDL and the client.
- Ability to understand and apply SPDL policies and procedures
- A willingness to undergo a criminal records check