


## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	
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<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

Hi

Groups closing, members getting older throughout the RFS & SES. Very hard to gain younger members!.

I am a retired RFB Volunteer with 15 yrs service, and if i never had any medical problems, i would still be there.

The problem with most Rural Volunteer's, is they are getting older, or people are leaving for the City's or larger towns, and leaving the Units short handed, yes, the Cadet Scheme will, or may possibly replenish some groups, but the Rural Units will still miss out, some places also have a common "hate" for other people, and they could also be a part of the local units as well, which in a way makes it even harder to fill positions.

My thought on getting more members, is to have a "inhouse" training scheme for the local kids aged above 13 years old, with specific area's of training to be added to their training, for those who wish to participate.

That area of specific training should be:

Group Trainers.

As the majority of current volunteers retire or die, there are Units being left high and dry, yes trying to keep the current members going, but get behind a newer type of Cadetship for the Rural Units, other wise you could lose more Units due to having no volunteers left.

Cadet Training times will depend on current training times of that unit, the only activity for any cadet during a call out is only to be done at Units Facility, being involved in equipment checks, both in stock and to replenish the trucks during change over to, two way operation and other fields as required.

I once tried to get a PCYC Cadet Unit going in the Qld Gemfields, i had at least 16 interested teenagers, even a family from Capella came to the meeting, but due to some "higher-ups", they squashed it, and some of the parents were interested in being a part of the fund raising committee as well, the PCYC cadets that are currently being trained, may not live in the area's that need them.

It is a marvellous thing on how the Country People can come together where it involves their children, and the parents as well, as most will also join up, and that could, or is a fantastic thing to happen, if the Brigades are allowed to train the teenagers through their own local brigade.

The Units need a chance to survive, help them survive

Talk to all 1st Officers, get their idea's or facts about the Groups they belong to, and how hard it is to get new volunteers, or even better, maybe a questioner ask about their own Units on how they are going with current members, and find out their ages, a great way to find out if that group is in dire straights that has possible teens in their area that could be trained, and eventually take over as the senior members retire.

Have a great week

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