

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

1.The current state of volunteering in Queensland and the value it contributes, including benefits to volunteers, organisations, communities and the State, on behalf of our organisation our service would not function without volunteers as we are heavily reliant on them for assisting with duties in the kitchen and driving to deliver our meals to aged and vulnerable members of the community. The benefit to our community needs to be measured as it is hard to put a cost associated to our community with the service from our volunteers many who have offering their services for over 40 years. The joy they bring into our service and to our clients is valued by our committee and clients and their families. Our management committee is voluntary and without their service we would not be able to legally function and honor our obligations to the community and government. 2.The views of volunteers, prospective volunteers and the volunteering sector on the current barriers to volunteering, including excessive legislative and regulatory burdens and other restrictions adversely limiting active volunteers - Legislative and regulatory laws on organisations are certainly there to protect public and government funding and reputation but endless and increased reporting is burdensome and with new HR laws and Fair Work changes this job must have persons who are experienced in these aspects. Recruitment to the management committee has become increasing hard to encourage community members to come on board and take on responsibility for these duties as there is little appetite from the younger generation to step up to the role. Our aging volunteer base is noticeable in the community and the role of females in these volunteer roles is becoming more apparent including the absence of our indigenous and ethnic communities.

3.The current experiences, motivations and challenges for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations and their recommendations for addressing challenges and improving the volunteering experience - Local Government Mayors and Councilors to conduct annual morning tea/presentation to acknowledge the role played out by volunteers across all roles. Consideration for a media campaign across Qld and promote the benefits of volunteering and include our indigenous and ethnic people in the ads to encourage participation and build confidence. 4.The unique challenges experienced by people from diverse backgrounds, genders, age groups, abilities and locations, and opportunities to improve volunteering participation, accessibility and experience for these groups - we struggle to engage with our diverse community members, and they are such a valuable source in our community we need to encourage new ways of reaching out and recruiting for our volunteers. 5.The extent, effectiveness and efficiency of current government support at all levels for the volunteering sector in Queensland and sustainable opportunities for improvement - Volunteering Qld keep us updated on changes and sends through referrals for volunteering from time to time but the difficulty is being able to meet the needs of referrals on time limited service. Continue to put out small grants to assist organisation acknowledge and provide aids to organisations in the ability to provide our volunteers with resources and tools to enhance their roles.

6.Opportunities for the Queensland Government to leverage all portfolios to support growth in volunteering across Queensland, including through hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games - No Comment living in Far North Qld this is not on our radar. 7.Opportunities to increase emergency response volunteering in Queensland, including how to optimise the engagement, support and integration of volunteers assisting with natural disasters and community recovery- Queenslanders are very resilient and through the roles of SES, LGA and disaster recovery centers are able to come together as required. Continue to encourage groups like the mud army to

participate in disaster recovery efforts as this is from the heart and very effective. 8. First Nations peoples volunteering, including in remote and discrete communities, and the role of First Nations volunteering in Closing the Gap; Media campaign for our indigenous members and commence this in schools as the younger we encourage volunteering the higher chance of success, consider the success from NRL clubs and how they encourage and recruit volunteers.