

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 13
Submitted by: alison fagniez
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

I have been a volunteer with tableland regional galleries for 8 years working as part of the exhibition hanging team, on the gallery counter and in supporting opening nights; I am a member of the gallery advisory committee also. The gallery is run by Tableland Regional Council who provide excellent support to the volunteers through the Galleries Office. There are concerns that the group is ageing (as with many volunteer groups) but there are roles for all abilities. Despite efforts to include, the group lacks ethnic diversity and despite a significant indigenous population there are no indigenous people in the volunteer group. I am a volunteer at the Tablelands Regional Gallery taking on a range of roles over the last 8 years including on the exhibition hanging team, reception, supporting opening nights, as well as being a community representative on the Gallery Advisory Committee. The volunteer group are predominantly retired and lacks ethnic diversity and despite a significant indigenous population, efforts to recruit local people have not been success. The group are well supported by Tableland Regional Council, with training, talks and bi-monthly meetings I hold a number of volunteer roles on the committee of Tableland Region Art Society Inc. as, despite a growing membership, few are willing to step up to take on tasks to keep the organisation running. . The Friends of the Gallery organisation closed 3 years ago as, despite great community participation in fund raising activities, the organising committee was down to 3 people who were unprepared to take on the workload. I volunteer at TREAT, an NGO which works with parks and Wildlife at a local nursery to grow trees for rainforest restoration. Again, the volunteer group is predominantly white, and ageing. In our small north Qld community there is significant overlap of volunteers across the various organisations. This has created vibrant and active groups of people working and socialising together to maintain a wide range active environmental and arts programs in the region. I am also a Red Cross volunteer in the case of natural disasters, but have not yet been called on to assist in my community. Training provided was good but communication and ongoing support outside large populations centre has been non-existent My only suggestions to enhance and maintain the number of volunteers would be to offer funds to run committee and computer literacy for volunteers who are reluctant to take on official roles, and to promote volunteering to the indigenous communities