

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 27  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I currently volunteer both formally a youth organisation, local swimming club, local AFL club) and informally / ad hoc (eg reading groups at the local primary school). In regard to the formal volunteering with a youth organisation, I understand why there are numerous mandatory courses, however, the time undertaken to complete them is onerous. To become a youth leader includes 50+ hours of mandatory courses. Then there is non mandatory (but preferred) training to ensure leaders have appropriate skills to offer outdoor adventures to youth. Leaders are responsible for deciding (and researching, and delivering) weekly programs, meaning enormous duplication across the entire organisation with commensurate knowledge loss as leaders resign / retire.

Volunteering is not valued by my community - with fewer people volunteering each year. This may be because of the enormous time commitment required to become qualified in the first place (e.g. the youth organisation). Or, for better organised organisations (swimming club, AFL) where roles are very clearly defined with weekly resources provided, once their children are no longer involved, move on to other activities. There is no promoting in the wider society of giving back to your community. It is not promoted through the school system, or through social media. Until volunteering is incorporated into everyday life as a standard activity, numbers will continue to diminish. Australia had a Prime Minister who was a volunteer fire fighter and life saver. This was a source of mirth in the media, further discouraging volunteers. I do not recall reading or hearing a single article that this was something to aspire to. There needs to be many 'high profile' people volunteering - when assistance is sought from the local community, the common refrain is that 'I'm too busy'. Everyone is too busy. Perhaps the public service could have 'volunteering days' built into the EBA. Volunteering is also personally expensive. There is the opportunity cost of volunteering, as well as the immediate cost (for example) of fuel / vehicle to get to the volunteering location. Volunteers often personally purchase resources required by their organisation. Sometimes this is reimbursed. Often, it is seemingly a minor amount not commensurate with the effort required for reimbursement. Has a tax break been considered?