

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

**Submission No:** 32  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### **Submitter Comments:**

I was a member of Eastern Group of the State Emergency Service from 2002 - 2007 before joining the Queensland Police Service. These times were some of the best in my life, and I met some of the best people (including my wife) there. I can say that the SES is one of the best organisations I have experienced. My wife is currently the President of our school Swimming Club which is made up of volunteers. She has done so for the last 3 years, and has seen significant successes in competition, membership and the acquisition of grants. I understand that membership has been declining in recent years, not only within the SES but in many areas where volunteers are required. One of the reasons that I have encountered is the personal financial expense to the volunteer. At SES we were provided necessary PPE, which was always good quality, but any other personalised equipment was always expected to be paid for by the member. I believe that if there was some way to reduce the financial expense to volunteers, this would greatly encourage people to join organisations, but also assist in keeping them there. Some strategies might be to allow personal equipment to be used as a tax deduction, or to offer a small grant or cash back option to clubs or organisations to encourage participation.