

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

**Submission No:** 37  
**Submitted by:** Gina Griffin  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### **Submitter Comments:**

Regarding Large Charity Organizations who staff their shops with Volunteers.I have 2 friends who worked at local Charity Organizations staffing their local Charity shop, as part of their Mutual Obligations to get Centrelink benefits.These women were over 55 yrs old, as were other volunteers who worked there.The total lack of Safe Work Practices, Work Health & Safety, Inappropriate Building design for tasks put these Womens Health & Safety at risk on a daily basis. For example - Older Women having to carry large, heavy, cumbersome bags of clothing up flights of stairs, Having to work in a small tin shed out the back, with no fans or air con, when sorting clothing. No supervision or care by Managers, who were not onsite very often.This is appalling. So called Charities, who apparently dont have to abide by the same laws as every other Employer in the Country. Apparently Work Health & Safety has recently been going into these organizations to address some of these issues, but there is still much to be done.I

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3 Years ago I volunteered at our local Environment Centre in their plant Nursery. It was staffed by 2 paid Employees and up to 6 women, who did this work as part of their Mutual Obligations for Centrelink payments. Myself & one other lady did not work there to get Centrelink payments, we were just Volunteers. The person in charge was entirely inappropriate to be in charge of anyone. He was extremely abusive - frequently yelled & scolded us for his own mistakes, made women load & carry gravel in wheel barrows. Most of these women were over 50. There were 6 Males in the shed next door that should have carried out this task. I left this organization because of this man, who was employed by our Council. He got away with this atrocious behaviour because he was in a position of power & the women were too scared to speak up. This has to stop. Lack of Work Health & Safety, Abuse of Power & no Oversight contributed to this.