

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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To whom it may concern, I bring forward a very compressed version of my story I have to tell however, it is not just me that is tied up in this as I am fighting for more than just clearing my name, I am fighting for others who also have been chewed by the corrupt and failing system. I joined the QRFS back in mid-2016 with pressure (the good kind) from my good mate and the First Officer of our brigade, [REDACTED] RFB, I brought vast experiences from my time in the Army (RAINF & REAME) as well as trades in Electrical Engineering, Aircraft Engineering, Boiler Making, Fitting & Turning, Manufacturing and production. Oh, grew up on a farm in rural background. I was and still am self-employed in a IT & Telecommunications business including radio comms. As you can tell, not just your average Centrelink funded [REDACTED]. I quickly picked up skills and experience as our brigade was a tanker brigade and attached to a lot of urban calls. This is where I started to see the cracks in the system with training and qualifications. Unfortunately, much of the training was delivered by facilitators who did not even understand the material they were to teach, but then to find open-book exams with prompted answers. It didn't stop there though, the paid RFS staff who were to collate and manage this training as well as organise it in the first place were regularly incompetent or inept which led to slow process of getting FMS let alone anything else. The even bigger danger was the people that were "passing" some of these courses were dead-set dangerous and huge liabilities. Scary part is in hindsight, some of these people are now paid staff or getting paid to deliver advanced training.....Over the years, I progressed to being a brigade officer after I obtained Crew Leader level. The other position I obtained was that of brigade secretary which was when I really seen how bad things were. Ranging from gross negligence through to blatant lies from senior staff playing the bluff games. I soon became a thorn in the side of several paid RFS staff including BTSO's, ATSO's, AD's and of course, the king-pin, the RM. I have a great deal of pride in my level of integrity and will not let lies or BS fly which I paid for with regular trips to the Area Office to answer questions or false allegations for which, guess what?, I was cleared of but still punished with CoC Training (Code of Conduct, used as a punishment when you buck the system or step outside the line, also the very same standard that paid staff seem to be exempt from). Moving along, I moved brigades after my original brigade suffered from a cancer, a toxic member who had "Protection" from above and regularly caused problems and routinely put others in danger yet was not removed, so I left and joined another Brigade, [REDACTED] RFB. What stunk here was the total blind-eye the Area Office gave to not just myself leaving but 7 other members, all in the same week. I spent a year or two there in [REDACTED] and became the second officer as well as Comms Officer and Training Officer, also assisting the brigade secretary who was a little behind the times on things. This was fine, the brigade soon became the area's #1 brigade and [REDACTED] went down the toilet and to this day, never regained. All very well until the claws of the [REDACTED] who wanted help with an upcoming state election. This was a classic case of "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" which was great from the brigade initially as it started to cut a lot of the red tape we as a brigade along with many others kept getting from the area office. This was fine for a little while until things went from being legal and morally correct to dirty tactics, stand-over tactics, bullying and harassment of opposition parties as well as members of our brigade and many other brigades. It was witnessing this first-hand that drove me to speaking up and questioning these actions which led to me being the #1 target for their attacks. I quickly found myself on the receipt of targeted bullying, harassment, lies, allegations of paedophilia and being under investigation by the police, stalking and even contacting my clients to incite doubt and destroy my business when destroying my character was not enough. Brigades more than an hour

away from [REDACTED] were getting phone calls from the first officer telling them all these lies including being a child predator and thief, irony here, I was due in Kedron the next day to meet with the DC and AC along with several others to discuss the high attrition rate of volunteering. They both were informed of what had just gone on as an example. Not a single thing came of it, not even a phone call or email, just accepted and ignored. I battled on with complaints which all ended with being swept under the rug. I even sat in the RM's office where he and the head of HR and complaints who both said all the treatment of bullying, harassment, allegations, lies and stalking had nothing to do with QFES and to go away. This included proof of fraud and corruption but the RM buried it. You know what, the very next day, I had to attend a whole-brigade CoC training session for my new brigade, [REDACTED] after I was run-out of [REDACTED]. The new AD, head of HR and the RM stood up at the front of the meeting and had the gall to tell us that none of the treatment I and others got was to be accepted in QFES, this while members from [REDACTED] turned up at the meeting despite being told otherwise, just to try and intimidate myself and others. I spoke to the new AD at that meeting and his very first words were total lies for which I called him out on. I left the training without signing the form 17 and quit, the day before my birthday, 2022 taking with me all my knowledge, experiences, abilities and to top it all, I was one of the most active firefighters in the region, all gone and wasted. Later on, time passed and several brigades were wanting me to come back including [REDACTED]. I filled out application and was voted in. The AD questioned the legitimacy of the meeting and vote, demanded a paid staff member be in attendance. Special meeting was called and again, voted in. Application was submitted and then dragged on for months, one lie after another came from the AD and eventually, I was informed in writing that my application was refused by the RM, totally other of order of process and natural justice, the [REDACTED] both exacting revenge. I have the AD on tape stating it was nothing more than being personal as I had the balls to call him a liar. He is till the AD despite over 70 pages of complaints. I am still on the side lines whilst most of the brigades in the region only have single digit memberships, much of which are not active firefighters and those left hold qualifications that are worthless and dangerous. We have people holding officer position including FO who are far from being worthy and even one who was under a pile of arson investigations that were buried by the RM. I have so much more to bring forward but with all the failures of paid staff from top to bottom, failures of ministers and of course, the biggest scam of all, the RFBAQ. We have had some wet seasons recently but even then, the warning signs of low turnout numbers and low numbers attending strike teams or deployments, bring on another 2019 and we are all going to burn. [REDACTED] inadequate training, inadequate equipment and appliances and no union/association to protect and fight for members. Yes, I have proof of all including the recent coverups of overweight appliances and other allegations.