

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 74
Submitted by: William Boyd
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Submitter Comments:

Submission to the Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland 9th February 2025 To the Committee: In brief, I have had a great deal of experience in volunteering over many years, in a variety of spheres, largely in Mackay. As one example, I have been President of Community Radio Mackay for some 20 years but I have had a number of other involvements. Firstly, it has been my experience that structured community events in Mackay have tended to fade away. Examples include the loss of the hitherto very popular Annual Sugar Time children's parade and the loss of a series of Deb balls. It is clear that community organisations which have previously been to the fore are now struggling for membership. These include the obvious ones such as Rotary, Apex, Lions, CWA, Oddfellows, Buffalos and Freemasons as well as a myriad of small, lesser-recognised organisations. The reasons are multifactorial, but it is my observation that the principal challenges to these bodies include the risk of lawsuits against volunteers and the associated cost of public liability insurance. Across the nation, all sorts of little clubs and associations spend an inordinate amount of time and effort in fund-raising through raffles, lamington drives and the ubiquitous sausage sizzles. Watching that hard-earned money being diverted from club activities and sucked away by ever-increasing insurance premiums is demoralising such that volunteers walk away. It is my strong recommendation that the State Government find a way to insure the public liability, at a nominal cost, for incorporated, community, not-for-profit clubs and associations. Secondly, the loss of cash, in favour of electronic payment, has definitely reduced the income of small clubs and associations. The facility of the use of electronic 'squares' is not available to the weakest clubs. With little cash coming in and the costs of rent and insurance going up, premises such as meeting rooms may no longer be affordable. Sincerely, Dr Bill Boyd FRANZCOG, GAICD President Community Radio Mackay Vice-chair Mackay Freemasons Inc Past President AMA Queensland