

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 92  
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### Submitter Comments:

For many years I have volunteered as a representative of St. Mary's Care and Concern, of which the Emergency Relief division comes under the banner of Centacare. Many years ago we were funded by Grants from both the Federal Government and the State Government. Over the past few years we have only received State Government Grants. About mid last year I was requested by the Parish on behalf of the Archdiocese to undergo training and to apply for a Blue Card. When I was teaching young children in 1992 - the mid 20's I held a Blue Card. During this period and until a few years ago I was also on call with the Local Police as a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) when they needed someone to sit in Police Interviews for Children and Vulnerable Adults. At the time I asked them if I should renew my Blue Card and I was told that it was not necessary as my appointment as a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) was much higher than that required for a Blue Card. The previous Government made it unviable for Retired people who have some time on their hands and are willing to offer their time and talents as Volunteers. Because of the ridiculous restrictions and requirements demanded of volunteers, older people like myself are no longer prepared to jump through the hoops set by the powers that be. After Volunteering for a period in excess of 30 years I have resigned from St. Mary's Care and Concern due to all the "red tape" probably thought up to keep people in jobs. I think also with the current cost of living crisis Families have to have both parents working in order to live, and younger people will not work if they are not paid. It seems to me to be too easy for some people to get onto benefits. Please consider that many people who do hold a Blue Card have been charged with serious offences. Margaret McGrath