

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 104  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I have been involved in Rugby League for the past 20+ years from community club, district, regional and country volunteering. I have been a coach, sports trainer, manager & club/district president. When I started it was a privilege to be involved in my community and give back to all the people that helped me as volunteers over the years. What I have seen especially since COVID is that people just think they can do what they want and there are no consequences. The amount of abuse, and in some cases violence against volunteers has jumped 200%, and people don't think they have a case to answer. This is why we are struggling with match referees & officials as well. There is more regulatory requirements on volunteers. We are being asked to do what paid employees should be doing and they are reducing the number of employees especially in regional areas, with another cut in our area in the past week. The expectation on volunteers to run community sports with minimal assistance from the governing body is becoming too much for volunteers to handle and there is a fear that legal action may be taken against volunteers by people who are chasing reasons to blame people. Our volunteers are seeing all the money the game is generating at the higher level and this is not being passed down to associations to cover increasing costs. Without the junior grass roots volunteers there is no higher level game and that is a consistent view of volunteers, the rich get richer and the communities have to do more work. As a conclusion the same people do all the same work, there is a sense of entitlement in our communities that we don't have to help but we want all the benefits from the game for their children and if we don't get it we will hold people to account, and volunteers are sick of this. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.