

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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The following dot points are my views on the declining numbers. The declining numbers of volunteers places more expectations on those remaining in community groups, clubs and associations. Finding time to manage increased workloads (due to above mentioned reason) is increasingly difficult given work and personal life commitments. The increase in expenses to run community groups, clubs and associations puts further strain on those volunteers. Example - Hire fees, insurances, maintenance, specialised services, affiliation fees. Social media negativity impacts mental wellbeing of volunteers. It seems there are always those that can do better from their lounge chair. Businesses who sponsor or provide financial and in-kind support to groups, are increasingly looking at what they receive to ensure it makes good business sense. This is understandable, especially in more difficult economic times, however it does place an extra degree of work/stress on those volunteers. It short - volunteer organisations are increasingly expected to run like a business although most volunteers are not business people and the organisation was never established as a business. It was established to provide something to the community in which it resides improving the liveability of the region.