

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Volunteering 1. COVID saw the volunteer structures change dramatically, some volunteers never returned 2. More families are working longer hours, both parents working full time raising children and are exhausted 3. Some do not want to volunteer but want to pay someone to do the jobs a volunteer would do 4. Older retirees do not volunteer like they did in the past, investing in community and young people is not on their agenda, the grey nomad culture, travel and holidaying is. 5. People just don't want to do the pre work to sports events, they want to turn up, have fun and get back to their busy lives. 6. Family break downs - parents do not have the children full time, they just don't get involved, is someone else's responsibility. 7. Fly in fly out mining jobs and working away - so many parents are on their own much of the time so there are less parents helping in sport and community 8. The varying family arrangements, sharing children in arrangements that benefit the access for parents. Dad has kids ever weekend, Mum has them through the week. One parent won't take the children to weekend sport or volunteer, the other will and vis versa. The children miss out on important community connection as well. 9. The week on and week off arrangements - no parent or grandparent, or extended family is involved. Children miss sports one weekend and not the other. Its messy. 10. Shared facilities on sporting and community grounds and the push to camping everywhere, grey nomads camping everywhere - see loss of sports grounds, community sports and rec grounds. Volunteers groups are constantly trying to prove they are valuable to the community with less volunteers, higher expenses, and more rules. It's just gets so hard and the best volunteers give up. 11. Blue cards and a course to be able to do absolute anything - many volunteers just want to turn up and help. 12. Bullies, different organizations have people in powerful volunteer positions that make it very difficult for new volunteers with fresh ideas. 13. People want everything with as little work as possible, or they want to pay someone to do it for them, they want the end result without realizing how many volunteers are needed to do the job. 14. There is just never enough money, cost of living sees many people working two or more jobs, there is no time. 15. NDIS - the schemes have made free supports and sports available for many children, people who once attended and supported local sports. They have changed from non-for-profit sports to NDIS funded programs. Some Parents even trying to have their children diagnosed so they can get all the free and supported programs that go with it. 16. Finally - the grant process - it is not easy or fair. It is hard - some groups get massive grants for things that are barely used, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - many people are trying to work the system, hardworking dedicated volunteers see people ripping off the system and just give up. 17. There is very little thank you to volunteers, those who don't volunteer don't know how much a volunteer has to do, it's like a second full time job for many volunteers and they burnt out. 18. People think the government should be handing money over in grants to pay for everything and don't think that non for-profit groups should be trying to be self-funded. They just want to government to provide the money - this attitude is problematic and common. 19. Non for Profit groups/sports clubs are constantly having to prove themselves just to keep what they have as the population grows, this makes volunteers tired and they eventually burnout. Imagine after 40 years of being a successful group having to prove that your club can continue because the zoning changes, or someone want to turn your grounds into a campground.

20. The cost of living and adults who don't want to invest in young people or their communities. 8.