

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

**Submission No:** 133  
**Submitted by:** Lorraine Heyes  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### **Submitter Comments:**

I wholeheartedly concur with the submission provided by RFBAQ. We are consistently losing members due to the increased bureaucracy and changes. The new finance arrangements cause more work for Area Office staff and for the Treasurer of the Brigade if they choose to continue to manage their existing funds. The turnaround time for approval of membership and delivery of requisitions for PPE and other essential equipment is woeful. the amount of emails generated "Updates" for every Tom, Dick and Harry is cumbersome especially for a brigade where not all members have internet and/or email. To ensure that these members receive the same information as other members this necessitates printing out the information and hand delivering the correspondence. This used to be quite a simple job but now with the volume of information coming out has become quite arduous. The debacle that is the Blue Card has caused untold distress to some members and has resulted in members leaving and/or being bullied into obtaining the Blue Card. I have been a member of Winfield Rural Fire Brigade for over 20 years and have yet to meet a child on the fireground. I fully support the protection of children and where brigade members work one on one with junior members, I fully endorse that member holding a Blue Card. However for the majority of members this is just not the case. The blanket rule covering all brigade members is discriminatory, costly and totally unnecessary. Lorraine Heyes Secretary/Treasurer/Training Officer Winfield Rural Fire Brigade.