

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

To whomever it may concern, [REDACTED]; volunteer with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and disgruntled member of the [REDACTED] I am writing to you to report a very good experience with my RFB since I joined in 2021, and a very poor experience with the SES since 2023. I felt forced to resign from the [REDACTED] SES group in early 2023 after being told not to raise WHS concerns at all (a violation of the Work Health and Safety Act), and a fellow serviceperson spreading slander behind my back (at about the same time). My desire to help the community later got the better hang of me, and I decided to rejoin in 2024. I'm told it took considerable intervention from a Regional Executive and group leader to even get my readmission considered. They then protracted my probation out to a total of about a year despite the fact I filed all of my paperwork on time (its meant to be a 3 month probation), they cancelled a chainsaw course that they originally told me I'd be doing, and then pretended like it never existed; then they disciplined me for taking the initiative to apply for chainsaw courses out of region (yes, I was prepared to pay for my own fuel and accomodation to drive myself out there). The hoops with them never stop, and I'm just short from formally resigning again. This bullying must be being coordinated by the Brass. I cannot see how such vital community services can function if they go to such lengths to harrass and belittle a tradesman VOLUNTEERING his time to this service. This sort of thing is why volunteers are leaving the SES in droves. The Rural Fire Brigade, however, thanks to its established democratic functions, is a much more accomodating service to be in. Regards, [REDACTED]