

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 139
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

To give some context behind this submission, I'm 29 years old. I have a husband and we live together, with no kids. I spend 2 weekends a week volunteering with Logan council and Brisbane council through the bushcare programs. I also volunteer through my Church groups in supporting social justice initiatives. I am also a volunteer for Red Cross and am about to be deployed for a week to help with recovery. In both of my bushcare groups, I am the youngest volunteer by about 20 - 30 years. I enjoy spending time with the older generation, but I am concerned about younger people and their lack of involvement in volunteering. Thinking about my peers and friends, I am concerned that many of them are not so focused on 'giving back' to community. My drive to engage in volunteering comes from my concern for the environment, climate change and increased natural hazards. I believe there is a real potential to engage young people, especially those single or without kids, even those who are working full time. I do believe that young people may require incentive to volunteer with councils. Rate reductions could be one option due to the higher costs of living, but I am sure there are other creative options. I also do feel that volunteers should be given a voice in the council. A volunteer forum to help share learnings and concerns might be appropriate. Especially those working in bushcare - we see a lot in terms of what is happening to the environment and how we can help care for it.