

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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My family and I have been volunteering for many organizations over the past 60 years. My Parents volunteered for School, Sporting Clubs, Scouting, Guides. Our community benefitted from money raised, working bees, improvements to sporting fields etc. Myself and my husband and my adult children also carry on the volunteering legacy - donating hours of our time to raising funds for sporting clubs, donating our time to working bees and fixing issues that are required to be fixed to improve facilities, fields etc to allow children (young and old) to play sports on safe & well-maintained grounds. I have found over the past 10 years that less people are volunteering as they are afraid of getting into trouble as there is so much red tape - Council, State Government and Federal Government. I encourage people to have a go and ask personally to get people to give a little of their time to help out - eg time in canteen, assisting with field preparations, posting social media. People are more inclined to help if you are asking personally - no emails or social media posts etc. I encourage many of our young members to have a go - assisting in canteen, setting up and packing sporting equipment - their parents sit and watch, but are not inclined to assist - I think that they are afraid to get it wrong in some way. People today are very sensitive to criticism. I was brought up to - see a job that is required to be done, do it yourself or ask for assistance to achieve positive outcome. I know that some works are required to be discussed with management teams and implemented to best benefit the club - clubs require strong leadership teams, who can achieve positive outcomes, ask for assistance from members and generally put their club first and not themselves. Funding for not-for-profit organizations is a big concern moving forward. The increase in running operations - fuel, machinery, fertilizers, water etc (not talking about wages) has a negative impact on clubs as they have to increase fees and this is making it hard for families to have their children in sports etc. I know of many clubs who are struggling to purchase equipment - eg a mower (\$60K to \$100K) as commercial equipment is required or fencing for safety and security. Fundraising for this type of equipment is long and hard. If you are lucky to obtain a grant for part of the purchase price you still have to ensure that you have the balance of funds. Management Teams have predominantly been made up of parents who take on the position as no one else will - even if they do not have the experience or help from outgoing members. Clubs who have executives come and go (burn out as trying to achieve too much or have limited support) have the issues of not staying committed to raising large amounts of funds for critical items - money is spent on want items (new sporting equipment required now etc). Recognition of Volunteers - all levels of Government do this - the money spent on such events could be given to numerous not-for-profit organizations to spend on items for their club etc. Photo evidence returned to whoever gave out the funds for their social media publicity. My family as volunteers do not require recognition - we enjoy the smiles and laughter of all children, young and old, out on the grass enjoying themselves, making friends and participating in life and hopefully encouraging these people to become part of their community - be a volunteer. I am happy to discuss with you should you have any queries that are required to be clarified by my statements above. Thank you for the opportunity to voice concerns for volunteers of the future.