

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	<div></div>
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# Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland.

Living in Roma, Qld., for the last few years, I am seriously impressed by the amount of, mainly ladies, who eagerly and regularly volunteer their time, their energy, their skills and knowledge to enhance this friendly, productive environment.

You are asking for answers to the following questions:

1. **What are the biggest challenges your organisation faces in recruiting and keeping volunteers?**
2. **What strategies or support do you think would help bring in more volunteers and keep them engaged?**
3. **If you could change one thing to make volunteering easier or more enjoyable, what would it be?**

1. As a resident, I observe that many volunteers have family and lifelong friendships here. However, it appears that the retired and over 60's and many over 70's, are the main female contributors. Many of these ladies belong to more than one organisation and being motivated and responsible citizens, tend to be fully involved in supporting the businesses and established support systems. Potentially, their health can suffer and retaining the energy levels needed takes it toll. Therefore, it appears that time and health maybe affecting the recruiting and retaining limit. Recruiting to include the younger residents is needed.
2. The long-term friendships and family support is invaluable in Roma. However, the younger generation needs to be encouraged to participate more often, seeing the community as a valuable and crucial element in life, here in the countryside town of Roma. Focus on activities that include younger people getting involved on a regular basis. Schools, colleges and businesses need to encourage interaction with different age groups to establish needs and enjoyable activities in this community. Unemployed people need to be encouraged to become involved, make good friends and experience the joys of giving, sharing and caring.
3. Less rules and regulations imposed could lighten the load significantly, for many who are overloaded with form filling and box ticking exercises from government regulators and bureaucrats. Straight forward, common sense procedures are all that are necessary. Let us get on with the volunteering without the continuous flow that layers of paperwork demand.

Yours sincerely

, Roma, Qld.