

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 162  
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**Publication:**  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Volunteering is in decline. Many skilled professionals retire with decades of experience, steady hands, and sharp minds, yet too often they do not know where to start. They want to contribute, but the pathways are unclear. The challenge is simple. How do you connect with them? Our community group is active and making a difference. We are not a Not-for-Profit or Charity, and that is a deliberate choice. Becoming a formal NFP requires numbers that are difficult to reach. The result is a gap. Skilled volunteers who want to contribute stand on one side. Groups like ours, ready to put them to work, stand on the other. What is missing is the bridge. Retired professionals gather in familiar places. Some read the paper over coffee at the local club. Some take morning walks along the esplanade or spend afternoons at the library. Some stay connected to former workplaces, professional associations, or industry bodies. These are the spaces where the right message could be heard, seen, or shared. But there is no clear path for a community group like ours to reach them. No central place to post an opportunity. No simple way to tap into a pool of willing hands. This is where government could step in. A straightforward initiative - perhaps a public platform, a partnership with local councils, or a program through libraries and community centres - could turn lost potential into real contribution. It does not need to be complex. It just needs to be accessible, visible, and easy for both volunteers and community groups to use. Your role is to make it possible. Our role is to put it into action. Their role is to bring years of skill, wisdom, and steady experience to the communities that need them. A small shift in approach could mean a wealth of knowledge, hands at work, and communities strengthened. The question is not whether people are willing to help. The question is how You help them find the way.