

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 166
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I have volunteered for over three decades in various fields. I do it because I see the need. This has included teaching RE in state schools for 15 years and helping Sudanese refugees. I have asked help from both sides of politics in regards to the English tests for non English speaking people (NESP). Both sides have either fobbed me off or totally ignored the situation. This situation is the way in which the private sector rips off the NESP financially. The test is in a cramped room. This is ok for the non spoken part. But when the examinee must listen to spoken English and reply, the computers hear other computers and other speakers! So it's almost impossible to pass! I have done this test. I am a fifth generation Australian of Scotch/Irish/British ancestry. The speaker on the computer speaks fast and long and there is little time for the examinee to answer questions. And you forget what the story was. During many attempts at the practice test, I consistently failed!!! Let alone trying to do this in a crowded noisy room!! So the refugees return, paying another \$400-\$500 fee, only to fail just this part of the test again and again and again and again until they give up. This test is a requirement for receiving the degree/ certificate and employment after the refugee has passed through Tafe or university and has aquired passes and proficiency in their chosen profession at their own expense. This is a vast travesty of justice. I am quite disgusted and shocked!!!