


## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 167  
**Submitted by:**   
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

As I am involved in a few different committees and volunteer roles, I wanted to ensure that no concerns arise that might reflect on anyone else. However, I do have ongoing concerns regarding the differences between volunteer and paid staff roles. In many cases, volunteers are underutilized and treated poorly by some paid staff, often facing belittling and undermining behavior. There seems to be a belief that paid staff automatically have more rights and knowledge than committee members and volunteer experts, which can create an unproductive and discouraging environment. I believe it's important to address these issues and clarify the expectations, responsibilities, and mutual respect between all roles. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further to ensure volunteers feel valued and supported. I was once heavily involved in Surf lifesaving and this statement rings truer than ever.