

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submission to: Qld Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering

Made by: Gelly McAuliffe-Bunker

As: ChaplainWatch Volunteer Engagement Facilitator

& on behalf of: ChaplainWatch's Volunteer Voices Group

Thank you for the opportunity to address the terms of reference you outlined, as below.

1. ChaplainWatch affirms and is enriched through the service of our committed volunteers serving beside us in Brisbane, on the Sunshine Coast, and in Bundaberg, Gladstone, and Rockhampton. These amazing volunteers, 80+ across the state, serve in the nighttime entertainment precincts from approximately 10pm until about 4am on Friday or Saturday nights, generously committing to two shifts per month, but often serving on our streets far more frequently than that.
2. We support them in meeting compliance requirements and equip them with skill-building and professional development training appropriate to our environments.
3.
 - a. Through providing available parking and a uniform shirt, we attempt to limit any additional costs of volunteering with us.
 - b. The volunteers themselves would love to have further opportunities to share about their volunteer experiences, such as a Volunteer equivalent to the Career Days at high schools and universities. They recognise that volunteering opens many opportunities to experience career fields and environments ahead of time, giving students opportunities to discern interest or skills matches which are right for them. A commitment to volunteering in a similar organisation also presents well on Resumés, as volunteering with ChaplainWatch is a positive fit with QAS, QPS, etc.
 - c. ChaplainWatch has just fruitfully raised up a Volunteer Voices Group, where volunteers can speak to issues impacting them, share wisdom on any changes on the horizon, and give valuable feedback as front-line workers from a volunteer perspective. We champion our volunteers and would love to offer more volunteers the opportunity to work shoulder-to-shoulder with us.

- d. Raising awareness of volunteering opportunities with ChaplainWatch has the additional challenge of being unseen-until-needed, as most of our shifts are in the night-time hours. This means that we would really value greater opportunities to share our stories, the skill-development opportunities with us, and more about what we offer through volunteer-specific websites, government promotions, etc.
4. ChaplainWatch is endeavouring to develop opportunities for diverse groups and is currently taking steps to develop new volunteering opportunities for available senior volunteers, in order to affirm and utilise their gathered wisdom and give them new opportunities to support and be supported within their communities.
5. Our VIO would love to see our volunteers able to benefit from tax incentives or allowances related to the volunteer hours which they contribute, or to be able to access funds available, as a VIO, to offset the additional transport costs related to volunteering with us, or an equipment- or clothing-allowance per volunteer. In particular, an allowance to upgrade our radios, so important for ensuring the safety of and communication with team members, would be extremely helpful.

Points 6 and 7 potentially represent volunteering commitments which would clash with ChaplainWatch volunteering opportunities.

8. First Nations peoples are most welcome to join our team of volunteers.
9. We would appreciate the opportunity to continue to engage with and grow volunteering opportunities and research.