

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 183  
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### Submitter Comments:

As a Volunteer for so many years, due to being a Cancer Survivor. So no way of finding myself back into the workforce. So I took up Volunteering at the Op Shop nearby where I live. I must add, I have been Volunteering before I had Cancer while working. I was Coordinator at the Bush Care Group. Also I have Volunteered at Tuck Shop at Primary School. I did volunteer in a Op Shop & found to be an experience to me. Sometimes you feel isolated after Cancer. I made great friends & cater to those wanting assistance in the shop. Before then I joined another Bush Care Group. Later on being surprised in the Rubbish debris lying around in the Bayside Shore, I decided to pick them up & put in the Bin. Then I formed the clean up group. As of today, I formed with friends another Volunteering Group call the Repair Cafe. Who repair items that people will throw out in landfill. This Repair Cafe brought Volunteers with the experience of what they can do to repair an item. Some are retired, some are still working. So this brought them out of their house to communicate with the public. We all learn from them & they learn from us. Creating a bond with each other & trust. They come with their skills to repair a item. Surprises here & there. And history of each of their treasured items. This Group is only 2 hrs on 1 day a month. Volunteering is the upmost importance in the wellbeing of every person who are not working or working or alone. It gives then an excuse to get out of bed in the morning & come down to the community centre or a location & start getting company & show their skills. Op Shops are wonderful for Volunteers. They meet the public & help them to find what they need in the shop. Bush Caring is wonderful to get outside in the opening & help eradicate weeds, plant trees, & sit down & have a cup of tea. Not everyone is the same. We are all different. And we as Volunteers can associate with anybody by giving back to the community. I certainly have learnt a lot in life doing Volunteering & the people around me are great. We care about everyone we work with. By Volunteering is helping the minds & keeping us mobile everyday. We have a purpose in life, we should use it every day. By Volunteering it has help me & others to enjoy life.