

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I have been a member of a charity for over 10 years. From dealings with different organisations, there has clearly been a reduction in the number of volunteers on a national basis, The charity is all volunteers, and we have a committee of volunteers with the medical condition involved so there is a desire to be involved; however, we have only had 2 new committee members in the last 5 years. From feedback for other areas eg fundraising organisations, there appears to be a move to wanting to be paid rather than volunteer. With respect to sporting groups, I have volunteered in the past for cricket and tennis when my children were actively participating. I assume that parents are still volunteering in these cases (coaching, scoring, washing uniforms, catering) when their children are involved but perhaps not at the more operational level of the association eg President, secretary, treasurer. From some local organisations, I am aware that a lot of volunteers are in the older generation. I volunteer for a community group and sadly, we do not get much involvement from outside a small group of passionate volunteers. Fortunately, for instance, crime stats in this area are low so there is a perception I suppose that people may believe they do not need to be involved. I am not able to comment on things like families working 2 or more jobs, cost of living issues, skill/capability to perform in a volunteer role and I suspect these may be factors leading to a reduction in volunteering as people don't believe they have the time to do it. From experience over time, there has always been people who criticise/complain about things (whatever that may be) and with social media, that may be a factor discouraging people from volunteering. I wish you all the best in this enquiry. I regard myself as very lucky and fortunate to have been able to volunteer for various activities and organisations and I am proud of my children who are following to some extent in my footsteps and perhaps there is something in that as well.