

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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The current state of volunteering in Queensland and the value it contributes, including benefits to volunteers, organisations, communities and the State;: The value is paramount to all levels of governments and to us individuals. I am 82 and still volunteering for all kinds of wildlife rescue and for several organisations. Even if it is harder with my age I still love itThe views of volunteers, prospective volunteers and the volunteering sector on the current barriers to volunteering, including excessive legislative and regulatory burdens and other restrictions adversely limiting active volunteers;: My view is that there are a lot of legislations to protect wildlife and that it is hardly policed and enforced. I see unleashed dogs every day in areas where they should be on a leash, putting protected wildlife, humans and other pets at high risk. Calling local government or posting Snap Send Solve are not followed by enforcement. Speeding on roads where wildlife is often seen crossing is very rarely enforced. I am sometimes so fed up to remind dog owners of their responsibility that I am sometimes thinking of giving up. I have been fined for parking on the grass during a rescue mission while having "emergency rescue" panels on my car doors. Volunteers like us would like to be more involved in the rescue of our marine life decimated by useless shark nets and the replacement of these nets by more modern and humane techniques. There is a definite lack of education of kids (keen to learn!) and their parents about respecting our wildlife. The current experiences, motivations and challenges for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations and their recommendations for addressing challenges and improving the volunteering experience;: see above responseThe unique challenges experienced by people from diverse backgrounds, genders, age groups, abilities and locations, and opportunities to improve volunteering participation, accessibility and experience for these groups;: I believe these challenges are the same as the ones encountered in non volunteering sectorsThe extent, effectiveness and efficiency of current government support at all levels for the volunteering sector in Queensland and sustainable opportunities for improvement;: The Queensland Government and all types of governments are saving so much money through having volunteers and should understand that volunteers' self support with petrol expenses and equipment has limits, especially in high inflation times like the ones we had with the LNP in government.Opportunities for the Queensland Government to leverage all portfolios to support growth in volunteering across Queensland, including through hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games;: same response as above.Opportunities to increase emergency response volunteering in Queensland, including how to optimise the engagement, support and integration of volunteers assisting with natural disasters and community recovery;: Volunteers in State Emergency Services have always to be treated as invaluable and respectfully. Is it always the case?First Nations peoples volunteering, including in remote and discrete communities, and the role of First Nations volunteering in Closing the Gap; andAny other relevant matters, including academic and other diverse sources, and any relevant reports and reviews at the national level and across other states and territories.: First Nations know the country and the environment much better than any government. We have a lot to learn from them, providing we give them a Voice. Their volunteering is priceless!