

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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1. For many years voluntary work has been valued less than paid employment. 2. Most households need at least two incomes today to meet their living expenses. People no longer have time to volunteer. They are also retiring later. 3. Those who have had time and energy in the past are now ageing. Our croquet club members are mostly well over the age of 70. They all volunteered willingly in the past but are now either too old, too sick or dead. 4. The ever-increasing bureaucratic demands from all levels of government and associated bodies are overwhelming. People simply don't have the skills to cope with them. These demands come from people who are quite at home with bureaucratic jargon, zoom meetings, social media and technical know-how. They simply don't understand that volunteers don't have these skills, nor do they have the capacity to pick them up. 5. If you watch TVs "Back Roads" you will see numerous examples of small communities pulling together to support and improve their towns. These are ordinary people with limited resources. Learn from them.