

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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As a Queensland community broadcasting organisation operating three broadcasting services, 4MBS Classic FM (classical), MBS Light digital and Silver Memories (a nostalgia radio service for the aged) volunteers are essential for our operations. In fact, without them we could not continue. We have over 300 volunteers who carry out important functions such as announcing, programming, administration, marketing, fundraising and more. As well as the benefits to the community of having three radio stations that provide programming that supports and promotes the arts and particularly Queensland's classical performers, the services provide an outlet for these hundreds of volunteers to play a role in bringing the arts to the public. One of our three stations is a special service for the aged called Silver Memories - it is a 24 hour a day nostalgia broadcasting service transmitted to hundreds of aged care homes across Australia including 110 in Queensland. Three university research projects have shown that listening to Silver Memories reduces depression, aggression and anxiety in the aged and improves wellbeing. The announcers on Silver Memories are all volunteers helping to deliver this proven source of companionship and Reminiscence Therapy to aged Queenslanders 24 hours a day. One of the volunteers takes his program on the road to aged care homes once a week to connect with his listeners. Without the work of volunteers this important service for the aged would not survive. The service was awarded the Australian Mental Health Prize and Pro Bono Social Impact Award in 2022. In short, the hundreds of volunteers who give countless hours to these three community broadcasting services contribute in very practical ways to the wellbeing of tens of thousands of Queenslanders and find fulfilment in their own lives.