

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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* The need for online registration precludes many older people who are not computer literate from volunteering * The amount of bureaucracy is often overwhelming for the task or project people wish to volunteer for especially if it is a one off volunteer opportunity * Local, State and Federal Governments administrative requirements are burdensome and usually require someone who can navigate the process on behalf of others. * As an example, if a group of people wish to weed a public area registration of the group by the group leader should be enough with individuals signing in and out manually at any given weeding event. Every individual having to go through the online registration process is enough to stop interested people from volunteering. This is the same for any small team projects. * Having to register with each different organisation and project makes it difficult for individuals to try out a volunteer role before having to commit to that role. Try before you need to commit should be encouraged. * Insurance is often difficult to obtain for groups wanting to engage volunteers. * Unnecessary training is another thing that puts prospective volunteers off. Who needs manual lifting training to serve refreshments?* Expecting volunteers to be responsible for fire fighting and evacuation and first aid is unreasonable in many volunteer roles. Paid staff need this training. If volunteers wish to undertake training by all means but it should not be compulsory to undertake a volunteer role. * Volunteering should be fun and enjoyable. If it isn't why do it? The burden of bureaucracy and paperwork is sucking the fun and enjoyment out of many volunteer opportunities. Only the most passionate and truly committed are prepared to wade through the many requirements. * Getting young people to volunteer is difficult. They don't seem to have any concept of being part of a community. Many young people tend to be self focused rather than community minded. They seem to believe volunteering is something old retired people do.* Volunteering needs to be encouraged and valued within the education system. * Perhaps a once off registration on a single data base for volunteers would overcome the need for continually having to register with each organisation or project.