

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 207  
**Submitted by:** Stanthorpe Training Centre Inc  
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### **Submitter Comments:**

Volunteers are wonderful. Without them, our organisation and our programs for our community would not exist. Recently we have noticed that Volunteers are doing it tough. The current cost of living has meant many volunteers have found it hard to afford the cost of fuel to actually get to our worksite. Others have had to return to paid work to be able to cover their living costs. Others have had to return to family duties (babysitting grand children or caring for ageing parents or family members with disability). The pool of volunteers in our town is ageing and it is shrinking. Further, the nature of volunteerism is changing. Rather than having a pool of formal volunteers linked to our organisation, we are finding casual and ad-hoc volunteers stepping up for short term projects with defined outcomes and timeframes. This makes planning very difficult. We are finding our work is increasing in the recruitment, management and attrition of volunteers. We would benefit greatly from training and any resources focusing on volunteer management. We are also considering how we can provide gift vouchers to offset the cost of volunteering. We have also had to cover the costs for safety clothes/shoes so the volunteers can meet OHS. From an NFP perspective, I believe we are expecting way too much from our volunteer executive and non-executive committee members in terms of skillsets and amount of time required to fulfil our required duties. My concern is burnout and resignations of these critical roles. I would like to see some of the paperwork reduced and help to streamline processes.