

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 211  
**Submitted by:** The Rotary Club of Gladstone Sunrise  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Written on behalf of the members of The Rotary Club of Gladstone Sunrise Inc., Like many organisation, The Rotary Club of Gladstone Sunrise Inc., is experiencing a dwindling pool of members/volunteers willing and able to commit to physically/academically volunteering in our community. across 10 years we have" lost " 100 members. transfers, illness, changes in life, work changes etc are the reasons. The reasons; 1. change in expectations by business and public towards volunteer organisations, eg seen only as running sausage sizzles/BBQs for other organisations. In many cases, the expectation is that our work is free and therefore poorly valued. Our focus is on working in community activities eg developing homes for older residents, building wheelchairs for third world countries, supporting DV initiatives etc., rather than having to raise money via Sausages Sizzles. 2. ever increasing governance requirements for clubs and associations without training/support for those undertaking specific functions - Safety, Insurance, Blue Cards, Strategic plans; Audits etc. 3. Technology, while helpful in many areas, is removing the need to establish meaningful relationships eg eClubs formed, access available by Zoom etc. 4. Many younger people have not come from a background of volunteering/giving to others. 5. Older volunteers are becoming unable to volunteer due to illness, physical demands, interest etc. Many volunteers are now aged in 60s, 70s, and 80s. Membership is open to all 18+ people. 6. Fees to join a club can be unaffordable for volunteers. 7. Family responsibilities, especially for people aged up to 40 years, can often determine volunteer time available. 8. COVID (fear) severely restricted volunteering and maintaining meaningful relationships. 9. Work schedules heavily impede available time for volunteering, especially in industrial areas. Many Rosters are incompatible with volunteer time. Many potential volunteers are time poor, as they try to balance shift, days off, travel, family time and rest, exercise and well being. 10. Most clubs have to raise their own funds to be able to assist in the community. This is a two edged situation for volunteers as they try to find to fundraise, before achieving the real goal of direct support to a project or event. Yes, we can apply for grants. Again this requires a major undertaking for a volunteer/s to write the submission with little expectation that the club will gain any funds. Once again, volunteer time is taken up with submission writing. If the club is successful, the funds must be acquitted and satisfy all requirements - volunteer time is used again. In conclusion, our club has tried many and varied ways to maximise our volunteering personnel and ways to increase membership. We also have ideas on how the government might attract and support volunteers. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this submission. Yvette Luckock Charter member of The Rotary Club of Gladstone Sunrise Inc.