

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Although I am disabled with rheumatoid arthritis, I would still like to be able to make some volunteering effort to support my community. I do not consider volunteering for things such as the Olympics to be true charity as people should be paid for efforts there as it does nothing to support the poor and needy. They in fact are EXCLUDED from these events because they require expensive tickets to attend. I do support any volunteering around the homeless, children in poverty, those struggling with providing the basic needs for their families and themselves such as regular meals, and general crisis support for those in need. I have contributed to these efforts before I was stricken by rheumatoid arthritis. I would still like to be able to make some contributions on my good days. HOWEVER, I constantly battle with Carers Queensland to maintain NDIS funding. This QLD government organisation has misrepresented my needs to the NDIS on every new plan I have had, including the one year plan that expires this August. I am barely able to get enough support for my own carer needs and for Physio necessary to keep my joint and tendon scar tissue from rheumatoid flareups under control. There is no funding left for my carer to take me volunteering. So what goes around comes around. I was forced to retire before 60 and am mentally active and able to give some volunteering support, but cannot get out and about to do so. This is why your volunteer pool is shrinking. Your government sees me as a drain on the taxpayers purse rather than a wasted contributing resource to the community. You will find there are a lot of people like me if you changed your attitude to us. Instead, I will put my resources into my constant evidence gathering and battle to maintain my NDIS plan. Jill Vardy