

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Gold Coast Justices Association Incorporated
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## The Gold Coast Justices Association Incorporated

The Gold Coast Justices Association Incorporated has 83 members who are all volunteers. There are no paid staff in our organisation. All management committee members volunteer their time freely to manage the organisation.

No one receives any payment.

Our members are Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations, offering a service to the community by witnessing important legal documents.

The Gold Coast Justices Association manages five Justice of the Peace signing centres across the Gold Coast.

All signing sites are in secure office spaces within a shopping centre. These include: Robina Town Centre, The Pines at Elanora, Harbour Town at Biggera Waters, My Centre at Nerang and Q Centre at Mermaid Waters.

### Organisational Mission

The Gold Coast Justices Association Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to serving the public by enhancing access to justice and promoting the safety and security of community members. We aim to achieve the following objectives:

### Objectives

- To provide safe, secure, and private spaces to facilitate the witnessing of documents and other Justice of the Peace Services, ensuring public access to accurate, efficient, and secure services.
- To maintain and improve the facilities, equipment, and resources necessary for the provision of Justice of the Peace services, ensuring a safe and professional environment for the community.
- To promote public awareness and recognition of the critical role played by Commissioners for Declarations and Justices of the Peace in supporting legal and administrative processes.
- To provide mentoring and development opportunities for Members, ensuring they remain knowledgeable and skilled in their roles, thereby improving the standard of services offered to the community.

### Membership and Volunteer Contributions

The membership of the Gold Coast Justices Association has remained stable over the past few years, with the number of volunteers also remaining consistent.

However, there is always a need for more volunteers. An increase in volunteers would allow us to offer additional hours for our JPs to witness documents for the local community.

Our volunteers are treated well and are valued by the general public. Most clients appreciate the service we provide. This is evident by the positive comments that are received from people who benefit from our service.

## Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering enables individuals to contribute to their local community. It fosters a sense of community through communication and interaction with others. Additionally, the act of giving back has been shown to improve mental and physical health.

## Term of Reference

The extent, effectiveness and efficiency of current government support at all levels for the volunteering sector in Queensland and sustainable opportunities for improvement

## Response – Support for Training

Most of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declaration that volunteer on a regular basis are retirees looking to give back to their community.

Anyone wanting to become a Justice of the Peace must undertake a training course. The cost of this course varies with each provider and may deter some people, especially retirees, from pursuing it.

Government support or some type of subsidisation would enable more people to complete the Justice of the Peace course, thereby providing the community with more JPs to volunteer in the community.

Consideration could be given to offering a discount to those people looking to become a Justice of the Peace in their retirement.

In summary, The Gold Coast Justices Association Incorporated plays a crucial role in the community by providing essential services through the dedication of its volunteers. Our mission is to ensure that the witnessing of documents is carried out efficiently, securely, and professionally, contributing to the overall well-being of the public.