

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I am a 59 year old female, retired from an executive industry role. I have always volunteered, my dad volunteered and we got roped in age 10! It is part of my DNA. Even when working 60 hour weeks in exec positions in the resources industry; from visiting elderly in aged care, to running girls brigade (I don't even have a daughter), to managing a conservation project for the cathedral. I believe in giving back into the community. I currently have a range of unpaid positions: treasurer for the local village association, warden for the local church (also managing the church / community hall and the memorial garden), the board (Diocesan Council) for Anglican Church of South Queensland, and Vice President of the PESA, the federal organisation for energy geoscience in Australia. Besides these, I sew for an annual drag queen workshop and still mentor a number of people working in the resources industry. It is getting harder and harder to get young people interested, and as a result, the burden on us who are already volunteering is getting heavier instead of lighter. Which makes it even harder attracting new volunteers to hand these roles over to. We are trying to split roles into smaller roles, or get professional (paid) secretariats involved to keep on top of the communication and documentation. Increasingly, new legislation to protect our clients and stake holders is making our existing volunteering and board roles more onerous. I would be hesitant to pick up some of roles I have done in the past now! And I get the impression that the young who do volunteer get dragged in too many directions, to many roles. They struggle to prioritise, and subsequently struggle with the workload, which leads to more frustration and tension, early burnout, and an increased burden on the remaining volunteers.