

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my personal opinion on Volunteering. I am a retired Administration/Clerical worker, my early years in the Public Service and later years in private business along with assisting my husband with his home business. I have worked for 48 years whilst juggling a family as well and have been retired almost 5 years, during which time I have filled a few different Volunteering positions, some as part of the Job Seeker programme, School Tuckshop and Lifeline Shop and more recently and currently of my own choosing in the community. These areas have been quite fulfilling, exhausting at times, but a very necessary part of our community's needs and I am happy to continue doing this work for as long as I am able to, although I belong to a Not-for-profit community group - I am writing this as an individual person and not representing the group as such. Volunteer Hours do come with personal cost - firstly, it is giving up your own free time and any transport that is necessary is at your own cost as well, fuel/ wear and tear on your vehicle etc, often using your own resources at home to complete tasks. I can understand why Volunteer numbers have decreased because unfortunately there are so many rules and regulations that have to be adhered to and sometimes we are performing tasks that we have had insufficient training for and the more you do the more is expected of you in some circumstances especially requiring the use of computer technology beyond our capabilities because so many things have to be done "online" It takes dedicated people to do Volunteer Hours but unfortunately we are in our Senior years and there seems to be less younger ones able to commit. Whilst I understand the need for transparency and accountability, nobody wants to be bogged down in bureaucracy. These are my personal thoughts and I hope they help to shine a light on some areas that could possibly be improved. Many thanks for your time and platform for this discussion.