

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by:	North Shore Community Centre inc.
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Submission to the Queensland parliament inquiry to identify barriers and explore ways to improve support for volunteers.

Made on behalf of the North Shore Community Centre Inc.

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The North Shore Community Centre opened in 2011 and was funded jointly by the Federal Government and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council who now own the building and have a tenure agreement with the NSCC Inc. a NFP Association who operate the Centre on behalf of the community and are responsible for the operating and maintenance costs of the Centre.

This agreement has been in place since 2011 and the Community and local volunteers worked closely with the Council in the planning and preopening project to build and design the centre.

The Centre earns 80% of its income from the hire of Centre space and relies on fund raising and grants to provide the balance of income to cover annual expenses. Local volunteers and Local Associations have been at the core of the Centre since its original concept. Volunteers provide 70% of the hours required to staff the administration of the Centre with 1 part time paid admin staff member a casual cleaner plus the 7 committee members drawn from local associations form the management committee. Council and local organisations provide advice and service and support when required.

The Centre provides the opportunity for Volunteers to:

Meet new friends, have fun and connect with all age groups and members of the community so maintaining connection is very important. You are never lonely when you are a volunteer.

Learn new skills and contribute to the Community.

Teach and develop skills and develop self-confidence.

Be part of a culture that cares for its Local Community and takes pride in giving good service and fellowship.

Be part of a successful Association that thrives through being vibrant and growing so that it grows community pride.

Be part of an Association that is financially successful and proud of being so.

Be part of an Association that helps local business thrive and do well by providing arrange of activities that benefit wellbeing for participant.

Being part of an Association that thrives on giving back to the community.

Be part of an Association that helps many Local Associations and a range of diverse and multicultural activities and groups.

Be part of Association that has developed a consistent and well thought out Mission,Purpose and Strategy.

Be part of an Association that is proud to stand its own two feet.

Be part of an Association that has had a consistent and long standing Committee that has effectively and harmoniously managed the Association for the benefit of the Community it represents.

Be part of an Association that has a Succession plan in place for the future.

Opportunities:

Our view and input is that successful Associations should be financially supported to provide training and development and used to improve volunteering recruitment within the sector.

This could be facilitated by offering a range of new incentives for key Association to provide further development and attraction to Volunteering.

-Allowing greater flexibility to reward and recognise volunteers by access to training courses paid for by Employer contribution or State Grant Funding.

-State Grant Wage Payment and Expense allowances for key volunteers.

-State run Succession Planning and Mentoring programmes to target key volunteers with leadership and skill development programs offered by registered training authorities.

-Mandating in State industrial agreements both paid and unpaid leave for volunteering for employees.