

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by: Carmel Daveson
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Submitter Comments:

I have been a volunteer most of my long life. My volunteering focuses on my social justice "participatory community development" practice. This practice supports the voices of people with lived experience, to enable them to input into social change in either their "community = locality or region" or "community of interest". At the moment I am the volunteer convenor of an initiative to strengthen and sustain, participatory community development through the establish of an institute which will enable us to input into policy, practice, education and training, research and civil society across systems and structures. Volunteering is limited by the accept concept of "doing for" an organisation or willingly giving time for the common good and without financial gain. Many volunteers have the interest to increase their practice skills, but the notion of having practice skills is sadly limited to "paid professionals". I have a masters research degree and many others diplomas etc. However, unless I am paid, I am usually excluded from making my contribution unless I sit on on boards of community organisations or companies ltd by guarantee. Participatory Community Development is both a citizen and professional practice.
<https://www.communitydevelopmentinstitute.com.au/ourdifference> Resources should be allocated to train volunteers in this practice, so they can not only "do for" organisations, but also support other people work together to input into social change processes.