

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Barriers to Volunteering in Queensland

1. **Concerns about liability** – “Am I going to be covered by insurance if something goes wrong?”
2. **Insurance costs** to cover a volunteer activity are high and burdensome for organisers of volunteer events.
3. **Perception that life's tough** – “I've got troubles of my own and don't want to get involved with the troubles of others”.
4. **Society is fragmenting and causing groups to turn in on themselves.** The fragmentation occurs along wealth lines and age lines. Social media seems to accentuate these divisions which causes groups to turn into echo chambers for self-reinforcing views. The interests of the “tribe” prevail rather than the needs of others making it difficult to get volunteers for work outside the “tribe”.
5. **Nothing is simple** – there's always a lot of red tape to get through to organise a volunteer event. Much of this is associated with regulations aimed at mitigating the risk of injury/damage. Whilst laudable not enough emphasis is placed on the volunteer voluntarily assuming risk.
6. **Inertia: Perception that someone else will volunteer** so they don't have to.

Buderim Men's Shed Inc

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