

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

The feeling is that most of the volunteer work we do exists only because of gaps in the community or shortcomings in governance. In my area and the work that I do, this gap largely stems from the council. Much of what any volunteer does is thankless and goes unnoticed, and when new people get involved and realize this, their enthusiasm tends to fade quickly. While many are happy to contribute once or twice, few continue on a long-term basis—unless they gain a social benefit, such as becoming part of a core group or clique. An example of this is local environmental efforts, such as beach cleanups and nature conservation. These tasks should fall under the council's responsibility, yet there is no dedicated team to handle them. This lack of accountability is frustrating, especially when issues are reported but dismissed as outside their jurisdiction. Beyond that, the work itself can be physically and mentally exhausting. These are just some of my personal thoughts—thank you.