Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by:	▮▮▮▮▮▮
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I volunteer for a local service group. Our numbers have halved since 2020, in line with what you have obviously been finding elsewhere. It is clearly evident that this is something of a community wide problem. Initially, when I received the e-mail I tried to think of ideas about how state and council institutions might practically help volunteers. # Things such as resourcing. A database perhaps of specialists (accountants, bookkeepers etc.) who may be willing to provide services for volunteer groups. Not for free but just for points of contact. # I also considered that making access to insurance easier could help. Like universal CTP for volunteer groups/events.# organisation of social events for volunteers, in their communities. Something of a thank you from the community.# a huge part of the problem seems to be the strain on people's energy. Perhaps state/council institutions are well placed to liaise with business for certain rewards for volunteers. Vouchers for entertainment, cinemas, dining etc. for example, as something of an incentive.# provision of a framework that can provide easy access to setting up, perhaps through local councillors or state members, a community dividend. People who feel time or energy poor can instead give a charitable donation to "the community" and, on the basis of financial turnover, number of members, service hours etc., that money could be algorithmically distributed to community groups to ease the burden of fundraising hours, so they can concentrate more on service and support provision. It would need a separate committee to administer it but this could be of huge time/cost benefit. Having a robust algorithm and doing it through a state member or local councillor would anchor it against bias.These things could definitely help but are really band aid solutions and I have two broader points for discussion that I think are much bigger issues. # One thing that is very much front of mind is the amount of government money that goes to NGO's that aren't driven by universal principles related to their core function, but are in fact politically driven activists. At one point funnily enough I actually looked for support resources for community groups. Google threw up a plethora of websites for organisations that were clearly not adhering to their core function but had instead adopted something of a politically ideological position and were using their platform to forward this. It was genuinely terrifying. I experienced something of this when I volunteered for another organisation which caused me to leave, but thankfully it is not something that has ever come on radar with this current volunteer body, across any position of the political spectrum, as it should be. After some cursory exploration it seems evident that tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars are going to these groups. This could be an overnight revelation. To redirect federal, state or council money away from politically active organisations (and I don't mean those advocating on behalf of their core principle) and instead towards volunteer groups providing universal foundational support and services to their community. Well, that could be a game changer. # More state/council involvement isn't the answer in my opinion. The answer is to address a) the dearth of meaning in peoples lives that has exploded since the pandemic andb) the sense of societal disunity On point a).... If state organisations get more and more involved, all that happens is the costs of human capital goes up, bureaucracy goes up and administration goes up. We need volunteers so desperately and the message could be so much stronger that volunteering isn't something that puts a drag on your time and your contentment but is the very thing you should be spending time on and will drastically and positively affect your levels of contentment. To paraphrase, "ask not what others can do for you, but what you can do for others". If you answer this question and accept its sentiment head on, the levels of contentment to be reached, compared to insularly drawing back from your community, are exponential. We need to remember and forward this message. And on the subject of disunity, we need to call movements

that divide us for what they are. Ideas based on genuine problems and hugely positive sentiment have been hijacked by a managerial class that have manipulated them to their own ends and with nothing less than a catastrophe of disunity in conclusion. In doing so, these people abandon the foundational principles on which our country stands. This has to stop. Instead we should be returning to our foundational principles, appealing to universal ideas, and should be trying to forward a rebirth of those transcendentals of truth, goodness and beauty.