

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Volunteers Queensland Wide especially in the Regional areas, their age group is 70 years+.

The benefits of being a "true" volunteer.

- Volunteers choose to become volunteers, and they choose where and for whom they volunteer
- "True" volunteers are stayers. They do not have to take on roles and hours to be eligible for CentreLink benefits.
- Community Benefit
- Mental Health of the persons you are assisting
- Your own mental health for being a valuable and necessary resource
- Volunteers have the freedom to work hours suitable to themselves
- Gain new skills and broaden personal horizons ie on-site training.
- Make new friendships
- If parents were volunteers, children most often follow in their footsteps, lead by example
- Volunteers join the giant Volunteering network
- They are a financial gain to wherever they choose to volunteer. 3 hrs a day 5 days a week, saves a business in salaries alone for one volunteer estimated approx. \$20 000 per annum. These savings in many cases are passed onto the community.
- Makes a business more efficient. Allows the salaried staff to take on the major roles of the business, while volunteers take on the daily roles.
- Volunteers can be a time saver taking on off site roles.
- Volunteers fill a huge void in our society – visiting the elderly in nursing homes, reading in the primary schools, bunching flowers, working for disability groups, promoting and providing social activities for disability groups and the community, and the list goes on.

The minuses

- Previous experiences, whether it be long time service in a certain industry, degree, diploma, certificates etc are not valued or appreciated when you become a volunteer
- Employed staff sometimes feel threatened by a qualified and experienced volunteer
- Many volunteers are not treated with the respect that is given to an employed person, they are not treated as a co-worker
- Menial and boring tasks are fobbed off to the volunteer

* Volunteers can be dismissed with no reason given and no comeback.