

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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I have been involved with the Valdora Community Hall Assoc Inc since 2011. The Association which is a very small community group was struggling then. The couple who were looking after things would distribute 300 flyers inviting the locals to come to a meeting with an awesome supper to be supplied but would be lucky to get half a dozen people turn up. Over time the committee changed and I became more involved by actually serving on the committee. There were a few keen locals who wanted to see the Hall situation improve but volunteers to do the work were few and far between. Everyone had good ideas and wanted to attend events at the Hall but no one wanted to do the work associated with the event. Despite this and because of the hard work of a few the Hall started to move forward. It is ticking away quite nicely, just making enough money to keep afloat. However, I am burnt out now, I can't do anymore. I need to hand over to someone completely but it is a struggle to find volunteers with enough experience and passion to keep things going, not that I had any experience. I learnt on the job and it has been very rewarding. Problem number one, no one has the time to devote. All jobs have to be broken up into very small time incrementals to get anyone to commit to volunteering which means you need more volunteers. Problem number two, each job needs a job description so that people will have the courage to make the commitment. Problem number three, those that do have an idea what has to be done and how to do it need to be around to give advice without ending up taking on more work (this can be very difficult). Problem number four, paying for insurance to cover everything that needs to be insured so that people feel confident to volunteer. Understanding the insurance policies is also a big problem. They are complicated and confusing no matter who you insure with so you really have to spend more money to get legal advice to make sure you have the correct insurance. It is also sad that you cannot pay a local teenager to do some work like mowing without all the legal ramifications that are necessary. Time, legalities and knowledge of how to do things prevents people volunteering now. It is all too complicated.