

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I hold a certificate in Teach English Speakers of Other Languages. (TESOL)When I obtain this qualification I was encouraged by the staff to volunteer at South Bank TAFE. Which I did. I volunteered as a tutor and was allocated to a teacher. We would teach migrants and refugees english and prepare them for employment opportunities and their citizenship exam.If was excellent contributing to these new Australians. However; some of the staff, females, were quite aggressive. PLEASE NOTE they were not my teacher.However one was in charge of the volunteers. The problem arose when they required volunteers to have blue cards. I was told go and get a blue card. No problem. I was told by the people in blue card you don't need one you don't teach children. This went backwards and forwards between myself , the volunteer supervisor and the people at blue card.It got to the stage where the volunteer supervisor accused me of hiding something and accused me of being a child molester. Luckily I had all her emails and I submitted a 23 page complaint on her. I believe she was moved from the position to a teaching role. I have not been back and was not asked to return to the TESOL at South Bank TAFE.The other woman teacher, One day I was preparing a lesson. She approached me, she was not my teacher, and said, haven't you got anything better to do? She should be out talking to the students.I informed her ,I have got something better to do , I have two men working for me in my business and I should be out getting work for them so they can feed their families. I would take Thursday's off from my business to volunteer.Volunteers are subject to bullying. From my experience I can understand why people don't volunteer. I think a lot has to do with women in manager positions and they think they can say what they like to men. That was certainly the case with the female volunteer supervisor [REDACTED] I was volunteering to better Australian society.