

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I have volunteered for over 30 years and I think that everyone that is capable should, in some way, donate their time to volunteering. I believe your time is more valuable than your money. In saying that, I think that one of the biggest barriers to volunteering is the cost. As petrol prices rise, I find it more and more difficult in my weekly budget to afford to drive to and from the locations that I volunteer at. I think that the out-of-pocket expenses incurred from volunteering should be tax deductible. I am a life member of the PCYC due to my volunteering, however, I can not just walk into my local PCYC and access their facilities. Life membership should automatically provide free access to all gyms across the state. Volunteering should be promoted via schools to increase the youth participation and promote the breadth of possible options to volunteer from sport to science and natural disasters to age care homes. Scouts is another prime example of a community association that is heavily reliant upon volunteers. Their recent national Jamboree in Maryborough involved 10,000 scouts from across Australia and overseas. This was only made possible by an army of volunteers to set up the site and pull down over January in the hot humid climate. Our society relies so heavily upon volunteers that they should be recognised and adequately recompensed for the time and effort that they provide.