

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I believe that the cost of volunteering has become expensive for many people. I have been volunteering both while working and now in retirement. Have been a Justice of the Peace for almost 25 years and during this time Governments want to change how documents are witnessed and the way they are worded when signing, and keep records accordingly. This is onerous and time consuming having to keep up to date, plus the purchase of stamps, log books and attend constant training workshops at our own expense. Also meetings for improving our skills is an extra expense. The cost of travel is another worry for volunteers that is often overlooked. While it is nice to be recognised for the volunteering work, it seems the only people in either high profile roles or paid employment or high achieving sports men and women get recognised with an AO medal and any others must be nominated and be scrutinised by committees in secret. While travelling through small towns in NSW I have noticed that volunteers are acknowledged in parks etc. as the townships values their volunteers. This doesn't seem to happen in the cities other than in Volunteering Week with maybe an invite to an event or maybe an email acknowledgement. This is just one of the organisations i have been involved in. So multiply that by PCYC, SES, emergency cadets, fire ant ranger, sporting events, Neighbourhood Watch, Blood Donor - you get the idea there is a lot of time and expense involved. As the old saying goes "if you want a job done give it to a busy person."