

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 305  
**Submitted by:** Diana Korving  
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**Submitter Comments:**

I have volunteered for many causes over the years, but it is now too fraught with 'red tape'. 15 years ago I volunteered as a Scout leader. I just turned up and did a session of my own with content that I thought was fun and educational for the kids and that was it. I recently offered to volunteer at a council event. I was to help show the general public how to plant a seedling plant. The session was for 90 minutes and some distance from my house. Before the event I asked asked to come on a different day for an 'induction'! It so was not worth all that trouble and I declined to help. Also volunteering for Council also meant an annual safety induction. I also have a friend who volunteers for a soup kitchen and they have to do food handling courses, etc. No one wants to do it. I have another friend who volunteers for a dog refuge and she has to commit to a shift on a roster and is expected to turn up. She says 'they treat you as an employee not a volunteer'. It does not allow for flexibility to volunteer when it suits. I believe a volunteer should be added help not a replacement for regular staff? So my comment is 'there is too much paperwork and time involved that is not getting the actual job done, and they expect too much commitment.'