

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 307  
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### Submitter Comments:

The terms of reference call upon the committee to inquire into and report on: The current state of volunteering in Queensland and the value it contributes, including benefits to volunteers, organisations, communities and the State: I volunteer a couple of hours per week to an association, as well as a couple of hours per fortnight with my church. I can do the former because I work part-time and have the time to invest in others. I doubt that would be the case if I work full-time. Volunteering gives me a sense of contributing meaningfully to worthy causes. I have also gained skills, discovered strengths and grown in my abilities through volunteering. The volunteering I do contributes to others having equity and support in their life choices (association), and enables worthwhile programs to run that benefit the community (church). As individuals and families are helped, our communities and state benefit. The views of volunteers, prospective volunteers and the volunteering sector on the current barriers to volunteering, including excessive legislative and regulatory burdens and other restrictions adversely limiting active volunteers: I think the main barriers to volunteering are time. This is driven by the societal push to have women back in the workforce during their child rearing years, as well as the high cost of housing that makes it necessary for most families to have 2 parents working. This diminishes the amount of time and energy available for volunteering from both men and women. Also, I think that some people are concerned about whether they could be sued, have their house taken off them, etc if they volunteer, especially if it at an exec level. The current experiences, motivations and challenges for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations and their recommendations for addressing challenges and improving the volunteering experience: With volunteer-run organisations, such as the association I volunteer with, the reduced availability of volunteers means some people are doing way too much to keep the organisation afloat, which leads to burnout. It's not sustainable. Often what would help is having better IT systems to automate and simplify many admin tasks but these associations lack the funds to make such a thing happen. Providing IT solutions for volunteer-run associations would be a real boost and improve sustainability. The extent, effectiveness and efficiency of current government support at all levels for the volunteering sector in Queensland and sustainable opportunities for improvement: What support is there? I am not aware of any. If there is support available, that would be good to make more widely known.