

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

**Submission No:** 310  
**Submitted by:** The Carpenter's Workshop  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### **Submitter Comments:**

Main challenge - The Carpenter's Workshop operates 3 mornings per week to provide woodworking opportunities to all local people over age 18 years. All members are volunteers. In recent years we have increased the number of members but have had a reduction in volunteers able to act as instructors and mentors to novices. Our greatest difficulty is contacting and recruiting retired builders, manual arts teachers and experienced woodworkers. Main Success - We have been successful in obtaining grants for projects and upgrades, particularly from the Gold Coast Council Community Development grants as well as Gambling Community Benefit Fund - these grants have been of great value to our group. Main Disappointment - we have been approached by individuals, schools and community groups wanting to bring children into the workshop to learn woodwork. The rules around Working with Children, along with supervision ratios and work place health and safety (and insurance) issues has been a huge barrier that we have not been able to overcome. Feedback from our instructors and members has been very positive. There appears to be a growing need in the Gold Coast community for activity based facilities such as ours.