

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I have very involved as a volunteer for a number of community organisations, both as an organiser and a worker. My comments below express my concerns of the loss of workers. 1 Once retired and travelling as a grey nomad in a caravan, I expected to be able to offer my services as a volunteer in places I visited. However it wasn't the case as each shire or organisation required me to attend an "induction course" often held only one day a month. So that cut me out - they weren't interested in casual volunteers. 2. Most volunteers are in the older age bracket, but the "organisers" of many volunteers especially the shire or council regulated groups ones consist of younger staff who often do not understand the needs of older volunteers or recognise that these people have perfectly adequate commonsense and experience and react against being pushed into "training courses" where the trainer knows less about the topic than the trainees. Eg chain saw operations 3 The need to be part of an organisation that will provide "volunteer insurance". I was disallowed to do some casual weeding because of this even though they were very understaffed. They were "Under instructions " to not accept just anyone. There needs to be an Overarching Volunteer insurance to cover all volunteers and reassure local governments it is ok to accept these offers. 4. The need for police checks, blue cards and any other official recognition should not need "renewal " every year. There would be very few volunteers that would become "unacceptable " in 12 months. Also , whenever a renewal comes up then there should be notification early enough to allow this. I was just told my blue card had elapsed and would have to apply again through an organisation. It was difficult to do this as an individual. Perhaps it has changed. 5. Is there a way that you can use the travelling grey nomads to become involved as they travel? Weed spotters is one such opportunity. Be aware that we are not all on social media but do visit caravan parks and read their notice boards. 6 it would be valuable to have older experienced volunteers to mentor younger ones. Sometimes we bring our grandchildren along to teach them the value of giving back to the community. Would that be seen as a problem? 7. I honestly believe that the recent change of thinking with this generation is that it is "all about me" will not lead to them becoming volunteers. Some of the free thinking ones will, but the majority will not see that as a worthwhile use of their time as they are so devoted and addicted to their devices. Just my observation. I wish you all the best with the inquiry. I will look out for the results and conclusions. 5 It would be great to have a mentoring program