

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 332
Submitted by: The Friends of the Caloundra Lighthouses Inc.
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Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Submission from The Friends of the Caloundra Lighthouses Inc. •The Caloundra Lighthouses are two deactivated Heritage listed Lighthouses situated above the main shipping channel into the Port of Brisbane. They are the 1896 Caloundra Head Lighthouse and the 1968 Signal Station (Lighthouse). •It's getting harder and harder to attract volunteers. In particular, the retiree age group in their 60s to 70s. •Volunteering needs to be made more appealing through advertising and recognition through promotion in the Community we serve. •In The Friends of the Caloundra Lighthouses Inc. (FOCL) organisation, we conduct tours that requires engagement with the visiting public from local, national and international backgrounds. •Our most recent Contract (Licence) that we signed contained clauses such as: The wording of the contract contained "trigger" language that not only contains "ensure" that means "guarantee", but also implies superlatives "best" "expert" none of which a volunteer wants to deal with as it might be proven in a safety issue re: insurance that the volunteers could not offer the level of safety demanded by the Contract. We should be able to guarantee that responsibility for action is not a threat. •We are Open 2 days a month for group tours and school excursions. Our group has dropped from 16 to 13 of which only 11 are physically active. Over the 18 years we've been operating nearly 18,000 visitors (based on yearly figures) have visited. •Create opportunities for groups eg: writers, students, community groups to explore the value of the site creatively and educationally. •Volunteers apart from the engagement through tours also: 1. Conduct bi-monthly meetings, AGMS, meetings of executive when necessary. 2. Carry out minor repairs and assessment. Cleaning, pest control of buildings. Monitoring any concerns raised by neighbours. Deal with graffiti when it occurs. 3. Meet with Council Officers to liaise work to be carried out. 4. Have employed a Company IPCQ Qld., to give an appraisal of the most urgent needs for the buildings repairs. 5. Have provided Sunshine Council with a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) with proposals for the future development of the Caloundra Lighthouses precinct. 6. Manage all matters of Heritage as required.