Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Sport and Recreation

Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games

Samford and District Rugby League Football Club (Samford Stags) has seen a rapid decline in volunteers over the last 10 or so years, as have many other volunteer organisations. We have seen a significant decline in volunteers in all areas of our operations, from volunteers helping with first aid for players on the field, through to being on the committee, helping at canteen, cleaning the club and working behind the bar, just to name a few.

We have found that most of the volunteers we have around our Club are volunteers that have been around for many years and have taken on many roles throughout their time with our Club. Not many new volunteers are taking time out to assist with tasks around the Club, even though we regularly advertise and encourage new volunteers to step up. We understand that life is busy and not everyone has the time or ability to help, however the attitude towards volunteering has certainly changed, with many members of our club just thinking it's not their responsibility and others will do it.

To make up for this lack of volunteers, our Club has been forced to pay for many services around the club that was previously staffed through volunteers. The impact that this has had on our financial position is significant. Not only the pressure that this has put on our finances, but also, we must continually rely on the few volunteers that we have to take on more



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and more responsibility around the Club. Add onto this with the increasing requirements that are dictated by the many Authorities that we answer to, makes it very difficult to continue to run our club with the volunteers that we are lucky enough to have.

We as a Club are very concerned how we will run our club in the future, once the very experienced volunteers that we currently have retire their services. Without the new volunteers stepping up and gaining an understanding of the many requirements of running a sporting organisation such as ours, the future of our Club looks very grim.

We very much look forward to the outcome of this Inquiry Kind Regards

Gayle Viner
Club Secretary
Samford & District Rugby League Football Club Inc