

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No:	341
Submitted by:	<div></div>
Publication:	Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Submission to VQ inquiry

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a volunteer with VNQ, Townsville since October 2020. My position with VNQ is a referral officer and I have been dealing with volunteers and agencies over this period.

Since starting with VNQ, funding has been a big area of concern, as the structure of the funding was changed by federal government from direct payments to VRC's to a peak body (VQ) to pass onto regional areas to keep the doors open. The only funding we received has been for a specific project not for operational costs. We have struggled to keep our office opened. Since our funding ran down in 2022, and we were looking at closing down we were offered office space at a venue in Townsville free of charge to keep on working. We had two volunteers that worked three days a week and kept Townsville Not for Profit businesses supplied with volunteers. **No operational funding was available from our peak body.**

After another eight months we were once again offered a new home by a church at a very discounted figure and we begin to expand with the hope we would be given funding to continue our very important work.

During these many months we have been given some local funding to continue with our training programs and to assist with employing a new manager and training officer.

We have had many offers of sponsorship, but as we do not have the classification to receive donations/sponsorships we were unable to accept. If there was some way we could be re-classified I am sure we could have some assistance to become financial again as there are several VRC's that do receive donation/sponsorship assistance.

Since the change of State Government we are hopeful that funding may be available again and we can continue. If we must close our doors we will lose expertise that has been freely given to keep volunteers assisting in many areas and many of our agencies have expressed their concerns of any closures. Our board are all volunteers and have offered their services over the last years (some many years) to keep things processing along.

We have lost several Managers with years of expertise, during this time, as they had to move on to more certain futures. **Nothing is certain when funding is not given.**