

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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To be part of an enquiry into volunteering is a privilege.

Getting others to help in a voluntary capacity is a continued battle. In my Guide and Scout years we saw the parents hang around till their child was not interested or too old. I continued to be that person who said I can help with that, Scouting, Guiding, P & C cake stalls, beer bottle collections, eggs for the hospital collections any where help was needed my family was in it.

What makes me different ?

I have often tried to understand why my parents were willing volunteers and most my five siblings and I have continued to do so. We migrated from the UK in 1956 "10-pound poms" We had no relatives in Australia so mum and dad looked for ways our family could get involved with the community. Our family weekends we spent with Scouts, Guides, and school. Dad and mum not only ran the groups but took on further administration roles at district level. My father was a mechanic so we often had extra visitors when dad would come to the rescue of broken-down travellers. All my life I have volunteered and continue today.

One old example when organising a cake stall for the P & C when my children were at primary school, it became the practice to give \$5 so you did not need to bake a cake. This decimated the cakes for sales, a volunteer's way out. Group child activities felt like a baby-sitting service in the later years. Times have changed,

My husband and I retired to Queensland, and I have continued to volunteer. Our local bowls club was asking for help, so my husband nominated me. He is a bowler, but I am not. This has been a challenge but a rewarding time. This club survives on volunteers the only paid staff are behind the bar and the restaurant. My eight board members are the number one volunteers. The volunteer pool has diminished,

The bowls games are organised by same 4 volunteers.

Any costly repairs , volunteers, 3 turn up for working bee.

Green maintenance, volunteers one person.

Machinery repairs, volunteers one person.

General building repairs, volunteers one person.

For a club with sixty full bowling members and many social members this is a poor list.

We try to give our volunteers recognition for their work is acknowledged but the numbers are critical. Our AGM was held recently but with no new nominations for the board. Lots of pats on the back for the returning officers !!

I'm at a loss as to the solution. It is a lot to ask a member with no experience to stand.

Have you ever thought of a government funded central and independent body to administer the financial and legal commitments of a club. Outsourcing payroll is available but usually at a cost little clubs cannot manage.

Good luck with this enquiry I look forward to seeing your results.

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