

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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SUBMISSION for Volunteers
Rural Fire Brigades & Primary Producer Brigades
THE MAJOR ISSUES – with an emphasis on smaller western towns.

A One size does not fit all – what is applicable in densely populated areas will very rarely suit the SMALL OUTBACK TOWNS of Western Queensland.

B The disastrous implication of the BLUE CARD by QFES in 2019/2020 had serious consequences which continue today.

C Volunteers in the community are in the majority a very happy group who when treated with decency and respect will remain for a considerable time. Once this respect is lost they leave never to return, often taking family and friends as well.

The BIG ISSUE:-

There needs to be a cut off point of having to have a BLUE CARD where a towns population is smaller than a certain number.

A Police check on Criminal History should be sufficient. Small local Towns have far better knowledge what is going, especially of anyone with suspect intentions and act accordingly.

Unnecessary RED TAPE in rural areas puts most off immediately and any hope of their helping in the community is lost.

I suspect that there is some combining of Rural Fire Brigades with Primary Producer Brigades. If correct it would obviously restrict membership because of the BLUE CARD regulation.

Another very serious issue is that a small town with very limited Fire Brigade Members have to depend on others in the town in times of a fire.

Apparently the person in charge can only sign them on for one occurrence, not for another in the future. A small town will run out of help, a dangerous situation.

N.B. Signing on at a fire is near impossible, * Something has to be done about this. One cannot stop a true Aussie helping out in a time of crisis!

A very good reason to discourage the Blue Card requirement.

Primary Producer Brigades being volunteers will never accept the implementation of the BLUE CARD if ever someone were foolish enough to try.

Past history:-

Grazier and member of local Bush Fire Brigade

Retail and Repair Business (motors and equipment) and Member of Auxiliary Fire Brigade for 9 years, attending bush fires during this period.

Operator and Hire of Plant and Equipment.

SUBMISSION for Volunteers for QLD STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Concerning Volunteers - A major advancement could be made by going back to the pre Campbell Newman Government days when there was considerable interaction with secondary school children before it was abolished.

If a Volunteer Subject (Possibly a Cadetship) was added into the Secondary School Curriculum with an emphasis on the Qld SES functions and goals it would be a great benefit both for their development and the community as a whole in the future.

Obviously an addition into Student Camps would be a great opportunity.
Due to lack of SES manpower major school support would be necessary.

The separation from the Qld Fire Service has been a major step forward allowing greater freedom in decision making even though they are still under the Qld Police Service.

**** I must emphasize that wherever VOLUNTEERS are involved they are NOT PUBLIC SERVANTS and must be treated with decency and respect, if one wishes to encourage and keep their very valuable support in the community.

Past History:-

Grazier, Bush Fire Brigade, Auxillary Fire Brigade, Business Owner including Machinery Sales and Repairs, Plant Operator.