

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 365  
**Submitted by:** McCosker Contracting Pty Ltd  
**Publication:**

**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

About McCosker Contracting McCosker Contracting is a leading civil contracting company with a strong commitment to community investment. For decades, we have supported local initiatives, donating millions of dollars to community development projects and not-for-profits. We believe in creating lasting change, not just providing short-term solutions. However, we recognise that many volunteer-reliant organisations struggle with sustainability, often trapped in a cycle of dependency due to a lack of solid foundations.

Challenges in the Not-for-Profit Sector Many community organisations experience high leadership turnover, forcing new committees to start from scratch each year. This leads to volunteer burnout and prevents long-term progress. Without strong governance, these groups often rely on repeated funding requests rather than building financial sustainability and effective volunteer management systems.

The Role of NFP House in Strengthening Community Organisations As Gladstone's local peak body for community organisations, NFP House is filling a critical gap by providing:

- Governance and systems support to help NFPs establish strong foundations, reducing reliance on constant funding.
- Volunteer engagement strategies that break roles into manageable tasks, making volunteering more accessible and sustainable.
- Financial sustainability planning, helping organisations secure diversified funding and reduce dependency on grants.

To truly increase volunteerism and strengthen community organisations, government investment is needed to scale NFP House's impact and ensure more not-for-profits receive the support they need.

McCosker's Involvement & Key Challenges McCosker Contracting is directly involved in several not-for-profit initiatives, each facing their own challenges:

1. Local Speedway Track & Events – We struggle to attract and retain volunteers while ensuring financial sustainability. Government support could assist with:
  - o Volunteer recruitment programs tailored to event-based organisations.
  - o Training initiatives to help committees manage operations more effectively.
  - o Infrastructure grants to support long-term sustainability.
2. Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre – Our wildlife conservation work is vital, but we need support in funding diversification and structured volunteer management. The government could help by:
  - o Providing grants for operational and rehabilitation costs.
  - o Supporting a regional volunteer network to connect skilled volunteers with organisations in need.
  - o Facilitating corporate partnerships to encourage business-sponsored volunteering.
3. \$1M Men's Health Facility – We recently built a state-of-the-art facility to support men's mental and physical health with the ultimate goal of reducing suicide and domestic violence. Volunteering is a key part of this initiative, but we need governance support, like that provided by NFP House, to ensure its success.

A Call for Action Sustainable, well-governed not-for-profits reduce dependency on constant funding cycles and increase long-term community impact. To achieve this, we urge the government to:

- Invest in NFP House to expand its reach and strengthen more volunteer-reliant organisations.
- Fund programs that enhance volunteer recruitment, training, and retention.
- Provide tailored financial support to help NFPs diversify funding and build long-term sustainability.

By making these strategic investments, we can move away from short-term handouts and toward a future where volunteer-reliant organisations thrive independently—ultimately benefiting the entire community.