

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by:	Lloyd Harth
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Mr. Lloyd Harth,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

26th February, 2025.

The Committee of Inquire into Volunteering in Queensland.

I offer the following views to the committee from my experience of volunteering over a period of many years.

The age of volunteers is ever increasing, with current volunteers hanging in awaiting for replacement of volunteers from the younger generation, however this is not happening fast enough to take the place of, either the passing of or retirement of current volunteers.

Most smaller organizations, particularly in Rural and Regional areas are of the Not for Profit structure.

These organizations in the regional/rural areas cannot operate without volunteers, as costs and their ability to generate income is limited by members and distant.

Some of this is caused by a lack of self employed people being able to devote time away from their business and the reduced amount of workers being able to take time off to fill the volunteer requirements.

These organizations face the same challenges, in having the same base costs of Government and Local Government costs, as the Urban organizations.

Another major issue is the requirement of new Rules and Regulations being imposed on Organisations. Many of the older volunteers are from the predigital era and have trouble keeping up to date with requirements, and are not prepared to be re-educated at their age. This is more in the secretarial and financial areas. I have been a volunteer in this area for 30 years.

Another requirement of committee members is to hold a Blue Card. Many volunteers see this as an impost and believe this is stupid requirement, as most do not have direct involvement with minors.

Another area is the push for equal gender expectation, this is in some cases an impost on smaller Country organizations.

Another area of concern is the current financial government support to individual based organizations, with the current shift to directing the funding to more Parent Organizations, to be redirected to their members. This seems to have been a shift in Government policy, which has taken away this source of funding which was available for small projects through the Sport and Recreation.

The issue of attracting new volunteers is a far greater area than just volunteers, it will require many changes of policy if we are to rely on volunteers to run many small Regional and Rural organizations. When we see some so called volunteers being paid when volunteering and some not it makes recruiting volunteers more difficult.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this enquiry.

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