

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 370
Submitted by: Young Veterans Central Queensland
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a Veteran Volunteer 100% run organization, we struggle often to get Volunteers and the factors that contribute to simply volunteering and having the resources and financial support to help our members. It is very difficult to simply fundraise and provide the adequate levels of support on a local level to many of our people. Often the burden has to be addressed by the RSL Sub Branches in our area. The various Grant (Funding) applications and amount of added effort and time to raise Grants is often very arduous and complicated. There needs to be a more streamlined and easier way to address the rising costs of volunteering. Fuel costs and regulatory burdens often inhibit progress and growth. Why not look at a simplistic approach to accessing the funding. Such as a structured tier system that allows organizations (such as Veterans Organizations) provide the relevant applicable business case and project plans through a Government Portal. Based on a points system then this puts them into a three tiered funding stream. Depending on the members volunteering, the project purpose and the projected path forward over say three years. Too many times, NFP/Charity organizations have submitted Grants and put in all the hard work to be declined. The level of bureaucracy seems to have overtaken the purpose and intent to support our community and our Veterans. Also, the lack of Grants that fund Operational expenses is noticeable. There needs to be more looked at in this space to relieve the burden and focus on the sustainability of all community organizations. We should not be limited to not being able to operate once a particular project has been built for example. Operational Funding is an essential for normal business process. It should be included for those community NFP Groups. This enables continued service and help to our community. Organizations must also be supported to provide opportunities for employees to volunteer time/skills on work time. And/or to provide leave allowances for Emergency Response volunteering similar to Government organizations. This creates a sense of community spirit and giving back. Seemingly when the weather events in our Region more and more have devastating effects and the need for volunteers to "clean up" after the event becomes more of a need than a nice to have.