

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by:	<div></div>
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Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering

Both my wife and I are retired and volunteer with various organisations in the Roma district.

1. Volunteer Groups

We both are members of Roma Performing Arts(RPA) where I do set design and construction while my wife designs and make costumes for the various plays and have done for over 20 years.

My wife also is a JP in the community.
Maranoa Regional Council art gallery with several others.

I volunteer as a tour guide at Roma's Big Rig oil and gas museum due to my long association with the oil and gas industry.

I also drive the small train on weekends and for major town events such as Easter in the Country.

2. Hours worked

My wife does around 6 – 8 hours each week

I do around 3 – 4 hours

3. Activity Types

My wife does:

- JP in the community which is an essential service provided free for everyone – it should be noted that many overseas people are shocked that it is free as it is not always the case where they come from
- Costume design and sewing for RPA as well as previously performing on stage
- We loan costumes, lighting and sound gear free of charge for community events, school performances and any non profit organisations

I do set design and construction for RPA

- Tour guiding for the Big Rig Roma
- Train driving mostly on weekends for the little train layout which is just great for kids and adults alike

Thoughts on Volunteering

Volunteering is time consuming but rewarding in that it gives a sense of satisfaction that other people have been able to some joy at no or low cost in their lives. We wouldn't do it if we didn't enjoy it. There is a camaraderie between volunteers while doing whatever is asked and that is an important thing in life.

The downside is that the average age of volunteers is 60 plus. It is very difficult to attract younger people so community groups of all persuasions suffer in falling membership but volunteer groups more so. We give freely of our time and cop some hard knocks at times but mostly it is a rewarding experience that is sadly lacking on the younger generation that want remuneration for everything.

We have several community groups within the town but it is quite often that volunteers are active in many of them. Do we want to be paid for what we do, the simple answer is No but here needs to be more incentive to get younger people into volunteering.