

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 396
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I propose the establishment of an internal volunteering program within the State Government, allowing public servants to opt into approved volunteer organisations as part of their employment. Similar to the community recovery teams that provide support during natural disasters, this initiative would enable public servants to actively contribute to community service efforts while balancing work commitments. Under this program, public servants could apply for a set number of volunteering days per year—such as 5 to 10 days—integrated as a leave category, similar to service leave or professional sports leave. Participation would be subject to managerial approval to ensure alignment with operational requirements. To maintain quality and compliance, volunteers would complete relevant training, including a foundational unit and any required site-specific checks (e.g., Blue Card or other clearances), with an annual refresher. TAFE Queensland could develop a tailored suite of training units to support this initiative. Additionally, a dedicated management team would oversee the program's administration and coordination. This initiative presents a valuable opportunity for public servants to engage more deeply with the communities they serve, share skills and insights across sectors, and enhance workforce collaboration. I believe it is a feasible and impactful way to support volunteer organisations while enriching the public service experience. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and appreciate your time in reviewing my submission.