

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 397  
**Submitted by:** Australian Centre for Regional Events  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I make this submission based on the hundreds of volunteers that we work with across the state in regional and rural events. Events are economic and social powerhouses for regional and rural communities across Queensland, and without skilled and passionate volunteers their future is at risk. The challenge we see is that volunteers feel overwhelmed by the growing amount of compliance and risk associated with events, with some local government requirements often being unnecessary and cumbersome e.g. all events no matter what size or scale are expected to undergo the same approval processes and events have to go through the event approval process every year even though nothing has changed in the event. Volunteers don't often have the skills to handle this. The growing cost to run events and the growing risks associated with them adds another layer to the stress in volunteering. Volunteers that we speak to through our work at Australian Centre for Regional Events often tell us that they volunteered to do something good for their community and then they found that it was stressful and risky due to administration and compliance. This is often a reason why many resign from their volunteering roles. In addition to providing training and skill development for these volunteers, it would be great if the government could review the compliance and red tape associated with events and look to streamline it. It would also be great for volunteer events to have access to funding support to assist them in engaging professional services that can handle the administration, compliance and risk so that the volunteers can focus on giving back to their communities.