

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

I have volunteered for over 40 years as an adult, in various areas of my community, varying areas of interest, Church, School, Community Centres, Local Fundraising, RSL's just to name a few. Volunteering has been a large part of my life, volunteering as a child with my parents, volunteering as a adult and encouraging my children to volunteer. Volunteering is rewarding connecting me with like minded people and many of my friendships have been built through volunteering. It is contagious volunteering and the reward is two fold, both in regards to what I give but by what I receive. Volunteering needs to be valued in society more not just as something that makes a difference to someone else but the skills, training, connections and life skills you can learn by this. Many volunteer organisations that I have worked for and volunteered for, struggle to manage the paperwork, legal liabilities and costs associated with managing them. Funding needs to be provided to organisations, especially those who build the skills of our community through different volunteering opportunities, build social inclusion, connection and values especially the skills of our older members of our community's. Having opportunities for students to volunteer builds their skills for future employment and grows our community's value for and of volunteering. I have found that many of my friends who volunteer and have their children assist them with tasks, increase their volunteering in their adult like. We need to value the resources that volunteers provide such as petrol to deliver and pick up items, driving to events which may be out of our local area or providing appropriate clothing for the activity. If tax incentives were given to individuals or organisations funded to provide these items to volunteers, I believe this would increase volunteering. We could also have employers respect and acknowledge volunteering of their employees giving incentives to staff who volunteer. Many people struggle to be able to afford to do these tasks due to the cost of living pressure and these measures could assist volunteering. I will never stop volunteering and the only thing that will stop this will be physically not being able to do this. Volunteers need to be respected and acknowledged in our community with events that bring them together each year or more often.