

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No:	465
Submitted by:	Menessia Nagie
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Commission of Inquiry

“My Volunteering Experience”

My name is Menessia Henry Nagie and I identify as a 69-year-old Gubbi-Gubbi/South Sea Islander man, originally from North Queensland.

I have been an active volunteer since 2003 after moving from Rockhampton to Brisbane and being involved with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Organisation in Logan City.

From an Indigenous perspective (my personal opinion) my introduction into volunteering was not based upon western principles of volunteering, but rather upon a traditional responsibility to the communities of country, kin and culture.

My introduction into mainstream volunteering, however, was all of my own doing, I just happened to be in the right place at the right time when I started volunteering at the Red Cross Night Café, a Homeless Youth Service.

From the Red Cross came the opportunity to volunteer in the Brisbane Homeless Connect Event in November 2006. During the Inaugural Homeless Connect Event, I was introduced to the then CEO of Volunteering Queensland. I was later invited to fill a vacant position on the VQ Board.

My volunteering experiences over the years have been good and positive and I have worked with many wonderful people who would go the extra mile to provide assistance to others in need.

Volunteers are the salt-of-the-earth and need to be highly valued by those who make all the big decisions in regards to funding organisations who heavily rely on volunteers and assisting them to better attract and manage their volunteers.

More funding needs to be made available and no more cuts, we definitely need a fair go for all our volunteers and volunteer peak bodies.

On my return to Brisbane in 2025, I will reconnect with Volunteering Queensland and apply to volunteer with a number of youth services and will also volunteer my services to the Brisbane Murri Elders Community Justice Group (Murri Court).

I love volunteering, it is such a worthwhile exercise, which not only makes a person feel good about themselves, but as a selfless service to Queensland and Australia, it is immeasurable and we need to do better in our acknowledgement and recognition of their tireless, devoted and dedicated service.

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely,

Menessia Henry Nagie