

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

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## Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering in Queensland - Submission

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CQARA is an association with 19 members. Nine members can be considered active volunteers. All except one member are in the Central Queensland area. There are no paid staff.

CQARA is an association of radio amateurs who have an interest in amateur radio experimentation and communications. CQARA has been appointed as advisory members of the Livingstone Shire Council Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) in 2016 and the Rockhampton Regional Council LDMG in 2025. Advisory members on the LDMG have a liaison role with the LDMG. Members attend LDMG meetings and participate in exercises held by the LDMG. Training has been conducted to facilitate emergency communications with voice and digital communications. Digital communications include 'email over radio' which may be utilized if normal email is not available. Loss of internet is one scenario which may trigger this requirement.

Volunteers in the Association have established fixed and portable radio communications equipment that may be used for voice and digital communications. During exercises, radio communication out of the Central Queensland area has been conducted to demonstrate the ability to communicate if the internet fails.

CQARA operates a radio museum at Rockhampton Heritage Village. The museum provides a display of radio equipment including operating amateur radio equipment. Volunteers operate the museum and attend during school holidays to conduct activities with visiting school students.

Volunteers provide their time in the above activities and generally provide their own radio equipment.

The number of volunteers in the association is relatively static. However, many volunteers are older and retired, and the number of volunteers will decrease if new members are not recruited to replace those who cease volunteering activities due to age.

In an emergency where communication is required, fewer volunteers may result in an inability to provide emergency communications.

Members of the Association enjoy experimenting with and operating amateur radio equipment. The ability to provide a service to the community provides an additional purpose to an enjoyable hobby.