

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by: Logan Dementia Choir, Woodlands Neighbourhood Watch.
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Submitter Comments:

In relation to the Logan Dementia Choir, it takes many volunteers to run the choir, fundraise, make a safe & dementia friendly environment for members & family/supporters. It is a challenge to have retain volunteers with 1st Aid Training & Safe Food Handling training, required at the venue we hire. Fundraising to pay for our musicians/choir conductor/therapist a token of what they should be earning is very challenging. There are so many deserving groups & needs in the community. What our volunteers supply on time & in kind back of office work etc is very precious & not sustainable for long periods of time. Advertising for our specific volunteers & where & is a challenge & usually costs. We did not get a great response from Ads with Volunteering Qld. There are many choirs of this type throughout Australia & the World. Recruiting, Training & Retaining volunteers are ongoing challenges. Access to relevant Blue Card, Criminal History Checks etc. is a barrier. Safe travelling by members to relevant venues we are invited to perform is a challenge. Making time in addition to volunteering to relevant mandatory & bonus beneficial training is a challenge & often not free. In relation to Neighbourhood Watch & promoting & educating the public on Crime Prevention & promotion about direct Reporting to QPS is ongoing & a lot of time thankless, as people usually seek us after a crime has happened & are stressed etc. Recruiting, Training & Retaining volunteers for this type of volunteering is more critical in SE Qld & very few options for most groups in mentoring newcomers & progressing to eSafe online means. While most regional areas with old traditional style groups do a lot better. However QPS want all groups to transition to online. Maybe a happy medium is the answer particularly in relevant rural areas. The QNHW Website has been very useful in the past & has been out of date for while & currently being upgraded & is overdue. NHW Australasia are a great online resource. Statewide education on NHW is mainly about Crime Prevention. Training & support of NHW volunteers could be improved & our QPS DCPC's & their teams do a great job. We could do with more support from ALL elected state members, some are already good. Factual positive media for NHW is nonexistent. From me personally on my own behalf, in relation to the Brisbane Olympics & Paralympics I personally will not be putting my hand up to volunteer. I volunteered for the Commonwealth Games & it was a steep learning dip. I enjoyed a lot of it but won't be putting my hand up for Olympics. Many great organisations are already poaching good volunteers & numbers of all volunteers for all has not recovered from Covid times.