

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 527
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I was fortunate enough to retire at 60. Retirement permits me to give back to society through volunteering in a variety of activities. In the past two years I have become President of our local community and business association; donated plasma on a fortnightly basis; participated in local clean-up events; become a mentor-driver with the PCYC Braking the Cycle program; help run a community festival (three times); worked in a village in Vietnam as a nurse; and much more. From all of this, I have become acutely aware how hard it is these days to find volunteers in my community. I am pursuing good causes and offering volunteer support to those that I can. The greatest challenge is connecting with more people who want to volunteer, too. If the QLD Government could do just one thing it should be this. Find volunteers seeking other volunteers and connect them! This may require funding to make meetings happen or trained people to teach people like me the skills to find, organize, and inspire new volunteers. But I believe there are willing souls out there, we just don't know how to find them and guide them to their mission. Sadly, I am becoming exhausted (and depressed) with an infinite number of projects but only finite amount of time and energy. Volunteer hubs could educate and support current volunteers to hopefully inspire and mentor new volunteers. We need growth of volunteerism with the first step being education and support of current volunteers to recruit more volunteers and share the load. I can see clearly now how a volunteer could walk away from their projects due to an abandonment of hope.