

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

As a volunteer member of the Queensland rural fire service i have seen volunteers treated more like paid staff than volunteers in the last few years there is a lack of paid staff in regional offices to correctly carry out the duties of the office so more responsibility is falling on volunteers which in a lot of circumstances have a paid job away from the fire brigade Also little if no encouragement for recruitment of new volunteers or incentives to encourage volunteers to join up. Also there is nothing in placeto record service or incidents volunteers are involved in to reward them with recognition or medals and when you ask the people in charge have no idea or rewards come years out of date which doesn't give volunteers any sense of pride but more of a feeling of they are not valued We all join up with the best of intentions to help our communities but become bitter and twisted with the way the organisation is run this leaks out to our communities and potential volunteers say i don't want that and walk away we are also here to help but we require the government to full fund these Brigades with out the staff of the brigade having to argue and beg for equipment also the new volunteers walk away as the recruitment process takes too long months and they get sick of asking about when the will get their uniforms and be able to train and learn how to fight a bush fire.