

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Volunteers don't like working in the warehouse of the company I work for because it's hard work, in summer it's very hot, no aircon, in winter very cold. The volunteers get terrible spoken to at times, like being children, at times rude and demeaning, because the women being in charge obviously had never any formal training and feel because they are there for a very long time they can do what they want. A few staff feeling they are in charge are well in their 70s and seem unable to change. There is a lot of favouritism, gossiping and whispering between themselves happening because of the established hierarchy. I did read somewhere that volunteers should only work 3 days per week but because the elderly women seem to like the control they often work 4 days per week, it seems common established practice. The general manager seem to look only after the volunteers working in the shops, the warehouse staff seem to be second class volunteers, never get told they do a good job, get cake and coffee or never even got acknowledgment on volunteer day. I have to work to receive JobStart allowance, so I work a very demanding, backbreaking dirty job under poor conditions 30 hours per fortnight for \$23.67 per hour. The good part is my workmates, they are great with a good sense of humour. Most of my lovely workmates wait for their 67.birthday to get pension and can quit. It doesn't seem to occur to anybody that if you treat your staff well they stay.....and come to work with joy.