

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 545
Submitted by: Totally and Permanently Disabled Ex Servicepersons Association (Townsville) Inc.
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Submitter Comments:

The TPI Association (Townsville) Inc is independently run and administered by a group of volunteers only. We have no paid employees within. I Warren Duscha has served as a volunteer for 23 years with the last 15 years a President. We are proud to have contributed to the welfare of Ex and Serving members of the Defence Force and their partners. We exist by asking our 450 members to pay an annual membership, fundraising by volunteer grants and donations. We have been able to run the Association this way for many years, but in today's changing society we see a number of headwinds affecting our operation. Firstly there is a lack of financial assistance from Governments to ensure that the important role for self-funded charities are maintained so they do not close. Particularly to encourage the next generation of Aussies to volunteer. We do not receive Government Funding unless we are lucky enough to succeed when applying for a grant which takes time and is strictly controlled. A gratuity to volunteer organisations should be considered based on their membership, charity classification and community activity. This would take the emphasis off some fund raising and allow volunteers to give more back to society, by way of welfare, volunteering in community events, providing health and wellbeing events. It would also reduce the onerous task of raising funds for administering a charity designed to provide welfare, veteran advocacy, hospital visitation, social events and volunteering. For example this Association provides up to 20 volunteers to attend charity country races and rodeos each year as gate keepers and for facility maintenance which ensures the success of such events. The cost of transporting and catering is borne by TPI Association when Governments could assist financially as this is a service to the Community. The other real issue for like minded charities is that of recruitment for younger members into the running of the charity as many members in this Association need replacing in the short term. It may well be, that we move from a totally voluntary establishment to one that has to pay for some services we offer. A real issue that this Association is dealing with at the moment. Again if Governments want charities contributing towards the community then it may need that a payment is warranted based on the members and activities it offers. We do apologise for being late.