

## Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

**Submission No:** 547  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
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### Submitter Comments:

Volunteering is becoming more and more difficult to encourage people to do. The hoops people need to jump through are becoming more and more. This comes from governments and sporting bodies. These are unpaid volunteers. The amount of training and upskilling is becoming more intense and time consuming. Whilst I understand that this is important to remain current in roles and to keep people safe, when is it enough? We can't claim the expenses incurred as tax deductions, as these are unpaid roles. The pressure placed by clubs to volunteer is immense. and the volunteers that are actually participating are overworked and undervalued. Volunteer burn out is real. In my role as a pony club coach I have volunteered at least 1000 hours in the last four years, That doesn't include my upskilling and re-certification tasks. I have been abused, yelled at by parents and ignored and ridiculed by children. I had to complete a child safeguarding course but where is my protection? There is no respect anymore towards volunteers. I used to prioritise my volunteering to the detriment of my family and I have recently decided not to do this anymore. The rewards are not as important anymore and the mental and financial pressure is getting harder to bear.