

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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CARMA PARLIAMENTARY VOLUNTEER INQUIRY QLD

FNQ Volunteers has been instrumental since the inception of CARMA assisting in governance and volunteers over the years and continues to support us. We provide this submission in support of FNQ Volunteers report.

Cairns & Region Multicultural Association Inc. (CARMA) was established in 2001 an Independent Non-Profit Organisation. CARMA's main objectives are to support, promote and sustain the diverse cultures in Cairns and surrounding areas.

This has mainly been achieved by the well-known Annual Multicultural Festival. The festival showcases over 50 multicultural talents through their international cuisine, workshops, crafts, song, dance and knowledge. This event is operated and supported by 100% volunteers.

CARMA has the support of the Cultural Community, the local council and corporations. The CARMA membership sits at 55 members at present and is undergoing rebranding.

Currently CARMA's mission is to expand services complementary to the Cultural events which requires additional volunteers, resources and funding.

Volunteer Challenges

- Limited resources and strategies to recruit, educate and sustain volunteers.
- Small pool of specific cultural volunteers available.
- Providing incentives to volunteers that allow them to participate in events.
- Sparse pool of volunteers to recruit for the Annual Multicultural Festival

Volunteer Suggestions

- Provide funding for education to recruit, train and sustain a robust volunteer base.
- Legislate and fund peak volunteer bodies to support governance for community.
- Create programs to increase the volunteer eco-system and promote nonprofits.
- Increase volunteer awareness by programs, advertising, benefits to community.
- Integrate volunteering in schools up to university level promoting and supporting volunteer culture.



Famous Cairns Multicultural Festival by CARMA



CARMA collaborating with PICQ in the PALM Ladies Program to Integrate these Nivan - Vanuatu workers in the Innisfail Community.