



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

## PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

### National Volunteers Week

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.31 pm): This week is National Volunteers Week. On behalf of the LNP and as the shadow minister for volunteers, it is a great week to say thank you to all the Queensland volunteers. This parliament was also the location for the launch of the 2024 State of Volunteering Report. The report estimates that 64 per cent of Queenslanders, aged 15 years and over, volunteered between July 2022 and July 2023. The value of volunteering to the Queensland community is estimated to be \$117 billion. That is greater than the nominal gross value of Queensland's largest industry—mining. The cost to replace the labour that volunteers contribute is estimated to be \$13 billion per year in Queensland.

Volunteers are in our service clubs, such as Rotary, Lions, Apex, Zonta, our P&Cs, our agricultural shows—the member for Ipswich West is one of those volunteers for the Ipswich Show Society—Angel Flight, Meals on Wheels, Queensland Country Women's Association, surf lifesavers who were here at parliament this week, rural fire brigades—and I know the members for Theodore and Scenic Rim are very close to their rural fire brigades—Marine Rescue, SES and RSLs. There is a long list of volunteer organisations and, unfortunately, time does not permit me to name them all. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities. Their contributions do not go overlooked or undervalued by the LNP. We will empower our volunteers and community organisations to continue their vital work.

Supporting volunteers is a priority for the LNP because it is a priority for Queenslanders. Contrast this with the Albanese Labor government who are trying their hardest to tax volunteers. Any not-for-profit organisation that has a charitable purpose and is not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is not able to be classified under any of the categories put forward for tax exemption, may not have their tax exemption status. There are volunteer organisations, classified as having a charitable purpose, who cannot seek exemption under any category and are therefore taxable. That is right—volunteer organisations may have to pay income tax to the Albanese Labor government.

It has been brought to my attention that there may be many hundreds of organisations that will fall into this category. To avoid paying income tax, many of these volunteer organisations will have to register with the ACNC, make the necessary constitutional changes and then will be subject to ongoing reporting requirements. We have no problem with charity accountability, but there needs to be a simple and straightforward process for our volunteers. Under Labor, federally, our volunteers are actually having to do a lot more paperwork or they are going to have to pay taxation. It is only the LNP that values our volunteers in Queensland.