



Speech By  
**Adam Baillie**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE  
COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report of the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. At the outset, I acknowledge the minister and my fellow committee members and thank them for their work on this important inquiry. I also thank the Parliamentary Service and the committee secretariat, in particular Kylie and Zac, who did an outstanding job supporting this inquiry. I am advised that this is one of the longer committee reports that many of my more experienced parliamentary colleagues have worked on. Their professionalism never wavered.

This inquiry received more than 570 submissions. That alone tells our story. This report shines a light on the incredible contribution Queensland's volunteers make—not just in our major cities but in every small town, every sporting club, every disaster response and every community across our great state. Volunteering is the quiet heartbeat of Queensland. This report makes it clear just how vital it is to the fabric of our communities.

As we travelled across the state, one thing became very clear: the strength of the community is often directly proportionate to the number of volunteers willing to step up and give their time. It was a privilege to hear directly from so many Queenslanders who are deeply committed to their communities—people who choose to give up the time they could be spending earning an income or with their families, all for the betterment of others. To every volunteer across Queensland I say: thank you for your commitment, for your service and for your sacrifice.

This inquiry travelled the length and breadth of Queensland, holding 15 public hearings, including 11 in regional locations from Roma to Cooktown and my own community of Townsville. At every stop we heard stories of service, sacrifice and pride. Those stories are what give this report its weight and credibility. I particularly thank the Townsville community for turning out in force. The response in Townsville was so strong that it was the only hearing where we had to extend the scheduled time to ensure everyone who wanted to speak had the opportunity to be heard. In addition, I acknowledge the attendance of the member for Thuringowa and member for Mundingburra, who joined as observers. I acknowledge those members of our community who appeared at the Townsville hearing, including Margie and Maria from Volunteering North Queensland, Shane from UnitingCare Queensland, Anthony from Disaster Relief Australia, Julie from Sailability Townsville, Colleen from Queensland Youth Services, Alison from St Andrew's Meals on Wheels, Andrew from the Townsville Lot Owners Group, the Right Reverend Keith Joseph from the Anglican Church and dedicated local volunteers Nick Atamm, Greg Maloney, Debra Curd, Margaret Freestun and Brian Rai. Their evidence was incredibly insightful and practical. I reassure volunteers in Townsville that their contributions were valued, that their voices matter and that this is a government listening.

I give that reassurance because, despite the overwhelming interest and demand from volunteers in Townsville to participate in the public hearing, the opposition had only one representative present to hear those voices. I acknowledge that the deputy chair was the only member who attended the Townsville hearing. I thank them for ensuring there was a quorum so the hearing could go ahead. The reality remains that there were two empty Labor seats at that hearing. I did wonder what was so important that committee members—the member for Cairns and the member for Lytton, who had joined us just two days earlier for the Cairns hearing—could not attend the Townsville hearing. I checked their diaries and found no other reported commitments on that date. I would be intrigued to learn what was more important than Townsville volunteer voices but not important enough to make their diaries. This is not a personal attack. I understand that members have competing commitments and scheduling challenges, but the fact that Labor could not find more than one representative to travel to Townsville and demonstrate that they value the voices of volunteers in my community was deeply disappointing to the people I represent. Townsville volunteers showed up. They made the time. They told their stories. They deserve better. Labor showed they do not value voices from Townsville.

This report reflects a government that listens to people where they live—not just in Brisbane—and understands the vital role volunteers play in holding our communities together right across Queensland, including in Townsville. The Crisafulli government is committed to backing volunteers with practical support, clear outcomes and recognition of their time and contribution. We will continue to listen, continue to engage and continue to deliver for volunteers right across this great state, including in Townsville.