



Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY


Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE; REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 5 March (see p. 564), on motion of Mr Lister—

That the House take note of the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee Report No. 4, 58th Parliament—*Inquiry into Volunteering in Queensland*, tabled on 18 September 2025.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.03 pm), continuing: In continuance of my no doubt stirring contribution from last sitting week, once again it appears the government's solution is simply to establish another panel. One can only hope the ministerial advisory panel does not become yet another talkfest.

Throughout the inquiry the committee heard many thoughtful and practical suggestions to increase volunteer participation, support students and provide financial incentives. Despite these opportunities, very few have been acted upon. We also learnt that in the past year no improvement has been made to the blue card system under this LNP government.

The committee's recommendations more broadly were framed in cautious language—'investigate', 'consider', 'review'. The government needs to do more. We need to see real actions because it is our volunteers who are paying the cost. These are significant issues.

To close, again, I thank all of our fantastic volunteers across the north side and across the state. It is important that we address the factors impacting our volunteer recruitment and retention and it is important we have a government that puts forward tangible changes.