



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

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

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee's inquiry into volunteering in Queensland report. The work volunteers do in our great state cannot be underestimated. From social clubs to our firefighters, they take on work out of passion for what they do and a love to serve others. However, this does not mean they should be without support, and I urge the government to action the recommendations listed in the report.

Some of our volunteering organisations have the important job of saving the lives of Queenslanders who come to visit one of the many great destinations we have to offer. In my own electorate we have the Mount Gravatt Rotary Club, the Greater Mount Gravatt Mansfield Lions Club, the Queensland Koala Society, Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels, Southside Community Care and many more. Each one of these volunteer-based organisations provides a service to my community. The Rotary Club provides much needed care packs for students in need in schools across the electorate. The Lions Club have collaborated with Southside Community Care on several projects aimed at helping people in need including setting up a thrift shop to help people doing it tough.

Alongside the residents in my electorate the animals need help, too. The Queensland Koala Society take care of a variety of native wildlife in need of rehabilitation including koalas. On Sunday night I had the wonderful experience of conducting our very own local toad hunt in Mackenzie in support of our environment. I acknowledge Mackenzie Bushcare Group as well as the Bulimba Creek catchment group, which assisted with that tremendous event. There were more than 60 locals in Mackenzie catching more than 1,600 toads—a really tremendous effort on behalf of the Mackenzie residents to support their local environment.

These are just a few of the functions of these fantastic organisations, but volunteer groups must have all the assistance we can give them, regardless of where they are in Queensland, and it needs to happen quickly. However, the LNP are already kicking the can further down the road by doubling up on the work that has already been completed by Labor. The former Labor government and the member for Algester had already delivered the Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032. This was very timely in relation to the upcoming Olympic Games. We know from the Sydney experience that it was volunteers who made the success of the games. It is very sad to hear that the LNP have not begun to process, plan and prepare for that very special event.

Our Volunteering Strategy and its accompanying action plan were developed through consultation with over 110 sector representatives and more than 20 co-designed meetings. This inquiry was totally unnecessary. It simply duplicated Labor's work and asked many of the same questions at

the cost of taxpayers and the time-poor volunteers. Now through released cabinet documents we know that those opposite did not even consider Labor's strategy and Labor's action plan. Queensland's volunteers are already stretched thin and facing burnout with administrative burdens and rising costs, particularly to do with insurance and liability, not to mention the ongoing training needed to run volunteer organisations. Our volunteers deserve better than a government that delays the implementation of these critical recommendations. I urge the government to get on with their strategy for volunteering in Queensland.