



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

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

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.27 pm): I rise to speak on the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland and to first and foremost acknowledge the extraordinary contribution volunteers make across our state. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many volunteers whose work makes a real and lasting difference to people's lives. Volunteers and organisations are the heartbeat of a connected, kind and generous community. When I think of volunteers, I of course think of those across my own electorate of Nudgee. I speak of people like Olive from Compassion 4 Community, who delivers meal relief to those doing it tough in our local community, and her team. They offer dignity, connection and a safe environment for some of the most vulnerable across my community.

I think of the legal volunteers who do pro bono work at Northside Connect, of the women who support our northside Brisbane women's shelters, of Rosies volunteers, of Banyo District Community Group that helps bring our community together through local events from Diwali and Queensland Day to our much loved Christmas carols. These events build community connection and directly address social isolation. I think of the Friends of Nundah Historic Cemetery and Nundah & Districts Historical Society, who preserve our local history so we always understand from where we have come. I think of the work of people like Wayne Krueger and the local Men's Table and of the delightful team at the Nundah Men's Shed whose focus is on improving men's mental health through honest conversation and peer support. I think of my local Lions and Rotary clubs and the mums and dads across all our sporting clubs who, on top of everything else, also make time to coach, organise and clean up after a really long day so that our young people have every opportunity to themselves learn what it is to be a member of a team in a community.

There are so many volunteers quietly working, and humbly so, in the 150 community and sporting groups across the Nudgee electorate that I could never name them all. Our community is the better for their generosity and service and they will always have my sincere gratitude, which is why this inquiry is so disappointing. What does it deliver for them? Others have already established that this parliamentary inquiry ultimately, and sadly, delivered little. The inquiry should have built on our former Labor government's Queensland volunteering strategy through to 2032—a whole-of-government volunteering strategy publicly released only eight weeks before the Crisafulli LNP government announced it was proceeding with its own volunteering inquiry, a volunteering strategy and accompanying action plan that was developed through consultation with over 110 sector representatives and more than 20 co-design meetings. This inquiry was an opportunity to make progress and build on the foundation laid by the strategy if the now Crisafulli LNP government was of the view that further work was required, but instead it just reinterrogated many of the same challenges.

Seven of the committee's eight key recommendation areas reaffirm or partially replicate elements and actions already articulated under our plan and action plan that preceded it. Why did the LNP

government start at the very beginning again? Could it not bring itself to support a strategy delivered by our former Labor government? That is politics and not real respect for volunteers. It could have just rebadged it and taken credit for it, as it does for most other things across government now. That inquiry could have been making a difference now. This inquiry does not make life easier for volunteers or the people those volunteers work so hard to support. This inquiry delivered no funding in the 2025-26 budget—no clarity on what additional funding, if any, will be allocated and, if it will, to what? What it did do is once again paint the picture that formal volunteering rates have declined in recent years and the volunteers who remain are often doing more with less resourcing. The recommendations in this inquiry are neither groundbreaking nor new. We know that volunteers would benefit from improved coordination across government and better systems to recruit, match and support volunteers. The report recognises the importance of tailoring support to different communities, including First Nations, multicultural, younger and older Queenslanders.

As I said, this inquiry and its recommendations are not groundbreaking. They reflect what I and, I am sure, many members in this House see and hear every day in our electorates and what was clearly articulated in our 2024 through to 2032 strategy and action plan that preceded it. This inquiry reminds us that volunteering does not happen automatically. It needs support, recognition and investment. When we back our volunteers, we strengthen community wellbeing, disaster preparedness, social inclusion and opportunities for people of all ages to contribute and connect.