




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.57 pm): I rise to make my contribution in relation to the report currently before the House. As many people have indicated over this week and last week, it feels like we have been here before. I know the great body of work that was done in the last term in the inquiry in relation to volunteering. The fact is that the strategy and the plan were released in September 2024. I note that some people made reference to handing in someone else's homework. Given that there is limited reference to the inquiry and to the plan and strategy that were produced, I would say that no-one was even aware that homework was already done.

It is ironic that in this report we consider how few volunteers we have and how time-poor people are to volunteer, while we asked these volunteers to again make a submission and appear before the inquiry. What could have been a plan that was in action for the last 18 months is now back to the drawing board waiting for yet another plan. That could have been 18 months of action, not 18 months to sit around and come up with another plan. We have seen lots of correspondence and sitting around and talking to each other and no action. That has been the government's response to many things so far this term.

I am very grateful to the volunteers who work in my area. In Beenleigh, a former country town, I have just about all of the voluntary organisations: Rotary, Quota, Lions, Soroptimists, the Masons, Probus, P&Cs, Girl Guides and Scouts. We also have cadets and TS Walrus volunteers who are doing great work in shaping young minds. In the brief time I have left, I want to touch on P&Cs. The schools in my area are really important to me. We have a big problem in our area with P&Cs folding. Over half of my schools do not have a functioning P&C.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMahon, adjourned.