

## Looking for volunteering support in the State Budget.

Volunteering Queensland welcomed the focus of the Queensland Budget 2024-25 on addressing the rising cost-of-living our communities are facing. We know that volunteering rates are declining, and that affordability is a barrier for many.

Volunteers deliver valuable services across all sectors of our state and are an essential part of Queensland's diverse communities. Our state has a paid workforce of around 2.4 million people<sup>[1]</sup>, and an incredible 2.8 million Queenslanders volunteer<sup>[2]</sup>. We know from the 2024 Qld State of Volunteering Report that the annual economic value this delivers for Queensland is estimated at a staggering \$117.8 billion. We also know that the value and importance of our volunteers can often be overlooked.

It is disappointing that there was no direct support of volunteers or volunteering infrastructure announced. Some of the Budget measures such as cheaper public transport, discounted car registration, school and community food relief, rebates on electricity bills, and increased children's sports vouchers will assist people to afford the increased costs of their volunteering. These initiatives will also help meet some of the rising business costs for many of the organisations they volunteer with. New procurement and indexation commitments will provide better stability for those social services organisations providing front-line services and the increase in indexation funding will assist with wage rise costs.

Our work at Volunteering Queensland is to support, advocate for and listen to our volunteering sector: you. We will continue our work that is generously facilitated through State Government operational funding, working in partnership on the Queensland Volunteering Strategy and delivering targeted volunteer management and capability projects within local communities.

As we move towards the October state election, Volunteering Queensland will continue to advocate with all political parties to encourage their formal commitment to improving sustainable investment in volunteering. We are seeking greater resources and assistance for the many thousands of organisations who manage volunteer recruitment and retention, and financial

support for those who volunteer their time to assist the wider community. These are needed to improve access for more diverse volunteers, to address barriers to volunteering, engage more young people, and support volunteer managers to provide improved volunteer experiences and improve volunteer retention.

We encourage you, and all volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations, to speak up in your communities and with your elected representatives and future candidates. Together we can advocate for the many reciprocal benefits of volunteering and the importance of better managing and supporting the volunteering ecosystem which makes our Queensland communities such great places to live.

[\[1\]](#) Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021

[\[2\]](#) Institute of Project Management, State of Volunteering in Queensland Report 2024