



QVC 20
25
Queensland Volunteering Conference

SUMMARY REPORT

SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

- **Spencer Howson, ABC Broadcaster, and conference MC**
- Alice Husband, Not for Profit Law
- Andy Gourley, Red Frogs
- Ashley Fell, McCrindle
- Brad Cooper, Volunteering Gold Coast
- Bridgette Mueller, RACQ
- David Jongkuch, Pushing Barriers
- Diana McMurtry, Empower Autism
- A/Prof Kathomi Gatwiri, ARC DECRA Fellow
- Dr Mark Armstrong, Qld State Emergency Services
- Mark Pearce, Volunteering Australia
- Nadine Ramsay, Brisbane City Council Resilience
- Nathan Hulls, Youth Resilience Specialist
- Parris Smith, Rotary Youth LeadersIA
- Rochelle Courtenay, Share the Dignity
- Dr Ruth Knight, Yalari
- Shane Harris, About Time Coaching
- Dr Stephan O'Grady, Welcoming Australia
- Steve Coulter, Queenslanders with Disability Network
- Dr Toby Newstead and Tram Tran, University of Tasmania

[View full program and speaker list](#)

EVENT OVERVIEW

The 2025 Queensland Volunteering Conference was an unforgettable experience, bringing together passionate volunteers, industry leaders, and community changemakers from across Australia and beyond. Over two action-packed days, delegates engaged in insightful discussions, powerful storytelling, and collaborative learning—focusing on the theme:

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE — INSPIRE. EMPOWER. IGNITE.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Youth engagement:** Attracting and retaining the next generation of volunteers
- Case studies from organisations who are successfully implementing the **National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.**
- Exploring **effective leadership practices** for motivating and retaining volunteers of all generations
- **Practical tips and tricks** for volunteer managers, exploring common legal issues, productivity tools, and crafting impactful stories.
- Challenging insights on adopting **inclusive volunteering practices**
- **Inspiring stories** from volunteers and volunteer leaders, including a special performance from the Absolutely Everybody Choir.



ENGAGEMENT

ATTENDANCE

228 Registered delegates
(online and in-person)

148 Organisations

105 Postcodes

1 Regional satellite event
in Rockhampton

2,081 Slido poll votes



GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC SUPPORT

- Personal video welcome message from Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Brisbane
- Opening keynote from The Honourable Ann Leahy, Minister for Local Government and Water, and Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
- Attendance by the Supporting Volunteers Team from the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers

MEDIA COVERAGE

35 Mentions

40.7K Reach

SPONSORS



IMPACT



"I have attended many conferences throughout my career (I am now 70) and this would have to be **the best I have ever attended!** From the MC through to the speakers, volunteers assisting, time to meet new colleagues and catch up with others we know, the catering and the venue it was so well organised "

"Overall, the conference was a **great mix of knowledge-sharing, practical takeaways, and meaningful connections!**"

"The most beneficial aspect of the conference for me was the opportunity to engage in networking and collaborative discussions with other volunteers and leaders. **Hearing different perspectives, sharing experiences, and learning best practices from others in the field was incredibly valuable.**"

"The sessions on volunteer engagement and leadership development stood out, providing practical strategies that I can apply to better support and motivate volunteers. The interactive format of some discussions also made the learning experience more engaging and relevant."

"Going back to my work place **feeling rejuvenated and inspired** for another year
Thank you"

DELEGATE SURVEY

100%

said the information in the conference will help them improve the volunteer experience in their program

93%

feel more confident to run a best practice volunteer program.

4.8/5

overall
organisation

4.6/5

overall
satisfaction

4.6/5

relevance of
content

4.8/5

quality of
speakers

ONGOING LEARNING

- Sessions recordings available post-conference
- Spin-off professional development sessions scheduled, topics including deep dives into storytelling, legal issues, and diversity and inclusion.

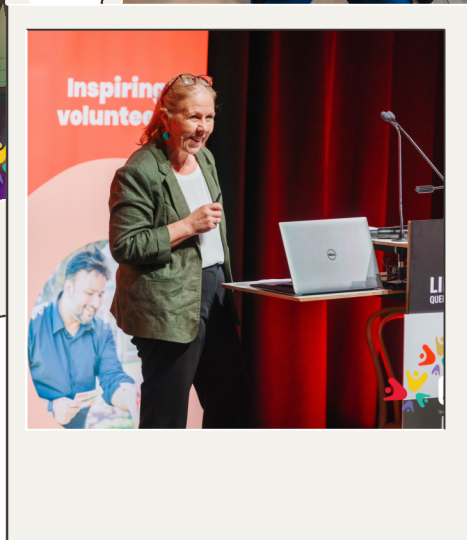


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LESSONS LEARNED



- A hybrid conference format vastly improved accessibility for organisations in regional areas, and Slido was well utilised for facilitate online engagement. However, there were limitations in terms of networking and interaction for these delegates. For future events we will explore additional satellite events in regional hubs, as well as an online host/MC to facilitate online discussion.
- The balance of speakers and content was very effective, with a mix of practical, academic and inspirational, in a variety of different formats. For future conferences we will explore additional opportunities for networking and peer learning.
- For some small community organisations, conference fees are prohibitive. For future conferences, we will explore additional options for subsidising tickets for small/volunteer-run organisations, making it more accessible for those with very limited funds, and extending the reach and impact of the event.



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FUNDING ALLOCATION



\$45k was allocated from VMA funding to support conference delivery. This included:

- ✔ Appropriate AV technicians and equipment to allow for effective hybrid delivery, improving accessibility for regional organisations
- ✔ Subsidised and funded tickets for delegates in regional areas and VMA projects, both online and in person
- ✔ Securing quality speakers to deliver on VMA priorities, building capacity of volunteer managers, and breaking down of barriers to volunteering faced by newly arrived migrants, people with disability and young people. Funded speakers included:
 - A/Prof Kathomi Gatwiri, Southern Cross University
 - Dr Stephan O'Grady, Welcoming Australia
 - Steve Coulter, Queenslanders with Disability Network
 - Diana McMurtry, Empower Autism
 - Nathan Hulls, Youth Resilience Specialist
 - Andy Gourley, CEO Red Frogs
 - David Jongkuch, Pushing Barriers
 - Parris Smith, Rotary Youth Leadership Award
 - Ashley Fell, McCrindle
 - Shane Harris, About Time Coaching
 - Dr Toby Newstead and Tram Tran, University of Tasmania
 - Alice Husband, Not-for-Profit Law

Description	Allocated Cost
Speakers, Presenters and Panelists	\$22,030.00
Capacity to delivery content - In-person & Online	\$22,970.00
	\$45,000.00



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