# State of Volunteering in Queensland 2024

**Older people 65+ summary report**

## Key findings for Older people 65+

* 52.3% of Queensland residents aged 65 and over, or 484,200 people contributed to the community as volunteers (compared to the whole population of Queensland which is 64%)
* Older Queenslanders volunteer for an average of 19.1 hours per month which equates to 111.1 million hours in 2023
* 22.2% volunteer formally, 28.7% volunteer informally, 31% do both
* Older Queenslanders are motivated to volunteer to: help others (77.1%), for enjoyment (47.2%), to use my skills and experience (45.3%), to be active (41.4%), for social and community connection (38%)
* 89.9% of Older Queenslanders volunteer within their local community (57.6%) or at home or online (32.3%)
* The ways in which Older Queenslanders contribute to their community are through: Governance roles (21.3%), other community contribution (12.7%), administrative support (10.7%), teaching or coaching (9.5%), faith based or cultural support (8.5%)
* Older Queenslanders generally find out about volunteer opportunities by: word of mouth (74.4%), other- (18.4%), social media (11.5%), Google/searching online (11.2%), traditional media (posters, newsletters, radio) 10.8%)
* 33% of older Queenslanders plan to volunteer the same or more in the next three years’ time

‘Meeting those beautiful people, it just fulfilled me. It was just very rewarding doing what I did ... has given me some purpose once I retire’

## Barriers to volunteering

* The top 5 barriers to volunteering more were: no time (41.8%), costs (14.5%), health reasons (13.1%), burnout (over volunteering) (12.3%), not interested in volunteering more (11.0%)
* The top five barriers to non-volunteers participating were: no time (37.4%), not sure how/never been asked (23.3%), health reasons (17.9%), not interested in volunteering (17.6%), lack of confidence (13.1%)

## The value of volunteering for older Queenslanders

* Volunteering of Older Queenslanders brings $15.8 billion of benefits to Queensland
* For every $1 invested in volunteering for Older Queenslanders an $8.70 return is provided
* Older Queensland Volunteers reported spending an average of $3.78 per hour on their volunteering with only 5.2% of their expenses reimbursed by the organisations they volunteer with.
* It would cost $4.6 billion to replace the hours Older Queenslanders volunteer

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