



Steven Miles
DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

19 October 2020

Ms Mara Basanovic
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteering Queensland
mara.basanovic@volunteeringqld.org.au

Dear Ms Basanovic

Thank you for your email regarding your policy proposals.

I would also like to thank you for the key role you have played in co-ordinating Queensland's Care Army during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your management of more than 28,500 Care Army volunteers to ensure that older and more vulnerable Queenslanders were supported when they needed to stay home and stay safe was an important part of the Palaszczuk Labor Government's COVID-19 health response.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's strong health response has put Queensland on the road to recovery by making strong decisions on the border and starting to deliver our economic recovery plan. Following the devastation of the Newman-Frecklington LNP government, when funding for essential community and social services was recklessly cut, we have worked collaboratively to reinstate these much-needed services.

Building resilient Queensland communities, and having a strong volunteer base are priorities for us. We are proud of our record supporting Volunteering Queensland, including a five-year service agreement from 1 January 2017, totalling more than \$2 million to promote volunteering opportunities, build capacity in the volunteering sector and operate the Emergency Volunteering Community Response during natural disasters.

I am pleased that we have also been able to provide additional funding of:

- \$40,000 sponsorship for National Volunteer Week for small grants for volunteer-involving organisations to host online events to acknowledge the contributions of their volunteers and the Queensland Volunteering Awards to be held later in 2020.
- \$143,000 to prepare for, and respond to, the impacts of COVID-19 including:
 - \$42,000 - framework and resources for utilisation of volunteers in support of COVID-19 and future pandemics
 - \$26,000 - multi-media marketing and communication campaign to inform and guide volunteers and organisations
 - \$36,000 - liaison with organisations utilising volunteers and the coordination and deployment of existing and potential volunteers, and
 - \$39,000 - recruitment, coordination and matching of volunteers
- \$417,010 for Care Army volunteer registrations and matching from 1 April to 31 August 2020, and
- \$250,000 for distribution to 10 volunteer resource centres across the state to support regional networking for mobilisation of volunteers in relation to the pandemic and any future disaster responses.

The first policy opportunity in your platform around the Care Army is shared by the Palaszczuk Labor Government. An additional investment in 2020-21 of \$250,000 for Care Army Legacy and related initiatives to build on the momentum and awareness of volunteering generated by the Care Army to date has been made by the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

I am pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Labor Government has also committed \$1.7 million in 2020-21 for Connect Workers to assist Queenslanders with disability, and communities affected by COVID-19, through utilisation of the Care Army.

Of this commitment, \$200,000 has been allocated to Volunteering Queensland for two Community Connect Workers who coordinate Care Army Volunteers from across Queensland to work with people with disability and communities in need through a collaboration with Queenslanders with Disability Network and GIVIT.

The Palaszczuk Government supports all the key issues outlined in your Election Platform and in addition to having delivered record investment to date we have established the Queensland Volunteering Action Partnership this year.

The Partnership brings together expertise from across government, community and business sectors, to identify priorities in volunteering, to identify actions to increase participation and fully realise the social, economic and cultural benefits. I am aware that you are a member of this partnership.

Should the Palaszczuk Labor Government be re-elected the issues raised in your election platform will be considered by the Partnership with the findings about the proposals provided to Government.

Given the track record of the former Government cutting \$368.4 million from funding to non-government organisations in the 2012-13 budget, now is not the time to risk the LNP's cuts. Queensland's ongoing economic and health recovery requires leadership and stability, and Deb Frecklington and the LNP are a risk to our recovery.

I urge you to communicate this message with your members and supporters. Should the Palaszczuk Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services