

Need another pair of hands?

Community service workers may be the answer



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**Queensland
Government**

Queensland
Corrective Services

Need another pair of hands? Community service workers may be the answer.

Queensland Corrective Services supervises persons throughout Queensland who are ordered by courts to perform unpaid community service.

Every day throughout Queensland community service workers are involved in worthwhile local community service projects. Over the years they have helped to maintain and improve sporting venues, cemeteries and parks, sorted recyclable items for resale by charities and assisted in food preparation and laundry services for residential care establishments.

Current community service projects include aged persons' homes, historical societies, service clubs, sporting associations, welfare agencies and animal refuges.

Your organisation can apply to be an approved community service project if you meet the following criteria. Your organisation must:

- be a “not for profit” organisation;
- be able to provide adequate supervision by a responsible adult;
- be able to meet workplace health and safety requirements; and
- have public liability insurance.

What is community service?

Community service is unpaid work that an offender is ordered to do by a court. Offenders can be sentenced to a community service or an intensive correction order. People can also apply to do community service instead of paying a fine.

The purpose of community service is to provide reparation to the community. Over the years many worthwhile community projects have been undertaken at a minimal cost to the community.

Community service can also help offenders turn their lives around. Worthwhile social contacts can be formed, jobs found, work habits re-established for the unemployed and positive attitudes developed through helping others.

How are the orders made?

The courts may order offenders aged 17 years or over to perform community service if they are sure that:

- the offender is a suitable person to perform community service;
- community service is available in the area where the offender lives; and
- the offender agrees to obey the conditions of the order.

Community service work should not conflict with the worker's religious beliefs or interfere, as far as practicable, with family, educational or employment obligations.

Responsibilities of the Queensland Corrective Services

Queensland Corrective Services will:

- assess offenders' suitability for allocation to a work project. Please note that privacy restrictions prevent the release of details of offences of community service workers. Community service projects can request they are not allocated offenders who have committed certain types of offences;
- ensure that workers obtain a “blue card” clearance where required under legislation for the protection of children and young people;
- ensure workers understand the rules of community service and their obligations regarding their court order before they are assigned to a project;

- liaise with community service projects regarding any issues related to community work or behaviour and remove a community service worker if requested by the project;
- take disciplinary action against offenders who fail to comply with the terms of their order; and
- maintain central administrative records.

Responsibilities of the community service project

The community service project undertakes to:

- provide a project supervisor;
- provide day-to-day supervision of community service workers at the work site;
- provide adequate and appropriate instruction and training to the community service workers, particularly in relation to the use of any necessary tools or equipment;
- provide sunscreen, drinking water, tools or equipment and any protective gear required;
- ensure workplace health and safety requirements are met;
- ensure security of the premises;
- maintain accurate daily attendance records for each worker;
- notify Queensland Corrective Services of any difficulties, or if children may be present at a worksite.

Responsibilities of the community service worker

Community service workers must:

- report to their work site as directed;
- satisfactorily perform community service; and
- obey all reasonable directions.

Workers will usually be expected to make their own way to the community service project and bring their own meals for the day.

What happens to community service workers who don't obey the rules?

Offenders who fail to comply with their orders are removed from the community service project and returned to court for breach action. Depending on the order, the court may impose a fine, make an order for them to continue with the community service, or re-sentence them for the original offence. A fine option order will revert to the original fine, payable immediately, with allowance made for the time worked.

Injuries and Workers' Compensation

Community service workers are covered for statutory benefits under the Agency's policy of insurance with WorkCover Queensland (section 20 of the *Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*). Community service projects, workers and Queensland Corrective Services all have a responsibility to ensure that community service work is carried out safely in a safe environment.

If you would like to apply to be an approved community service project, please contact your nearest Probation and Parole District Office for an application form.
(see back page for office locations and contact details).

District Offices

Beenleigh

Cnr James and Kent St
Beenleigh 4207
Ph: 07 3287 1975

Bowen

Bowen Court House
Herbert Street
Bowen 4805
Ph: 07 4786 3951

Brisbane North

744 Gympie Rd
Chermside 4032
Ph: 07 3405 5411

Brisbane South

Level 2, 217 Logan Rd
Buranda 4102
Ph: 07 3247 3200

Brisbane Central

50-56 Little Edward Street
Spring Hill 4000
Ph: 07 3406 6077

Bundaberg

2nd Floor, 46 Quay St
Bundaberg 4670
Ph: 07 4131 5430

Burleigh Heads

Lvl 4, Cnr Park Ave & Connor St
Burleigh Heads 4220
Ph: 07 5535 9688

Caboolture

Suite 11, 77 King Street
Caboolture 4510
Ph: 07 5431 2561

Cairns

95 Sheridan St
Cairns 4870
Ph: 07 4039 8210

Cannonvale

Whitsunday Professional Centre
9 Island Drive
Cannonvale 4802
Ph: 07 4948 2978

Cleveland

1st Floor, Cleveland Plaza
Cleveland 4163
Ph: 07 3383 0700

Emerald

Waterson Place
21 Hospital Place
Emerald 4720
Ph: 07 4983 7444

Gladstone

Cnr Roseberry St & Oaka Lane
Gladstone 4680
Ph: 07 4971 2380

Gympie

Cnr Lawrence & Mellor Sts
Gympie 4570
Ph: 07 5480 5400

Hervey Bay

50-54 Main Street
Hervey Bay 4655
Ph: 07 4125 9200

Inala

Shop 12, Inala Civic Centre
Inala 4077
Ph: 07 3362 9270

Innisfail

14 Gladly Street
Innisfail 4860
Ph: 0740483344

Ipswich

265 Brisbane Street
Ipswich 4305
Ph: 07 3280 1814

Kingaroy

3 / 16 Alford Street
Kingaroy 4610
Ph: 07 4164 0210

Logan City

7 Station Rd
Woodridge 4114
Ph: 07 3209 5308

Mackay

18 Brisbane St (Cnr Gordon St)
Mackay 4740
Ph: 07 4967 0740

Mareeba

134 Byrnes Street
Mareeba 4880
Ph: 07 4048 4777

Maroochydore

1st Floor, 27 Cornmeal Parade
Maroochydore 4558
Ph: 07 5470 8030

Maryborough

Cnr Kent and Richmond St
Maryborough 4650
Ph: 07 4121 1847

Mount Isa

8 Miles Street
Mt. Isa 4825
Ph: 07 4747 2044

Noosa Heads

Court House, Langura Street,
Noosa Heads 4567
Ph: 07 5473 8440

Palm Island

C/- Post Office
Palm Island 4816
Ph: 07 4770 1239

Pine Rivers

Level 1, 199 Gympie Road
Strathpine 4500
Ph: 07 3205 4877

Redcliffe

246 Anzac Ave
Redcliffe 4021
Ph: 07 3284 0433

Rockhampton

Block F, Courts, Bolsover St
Rockhampton 4700
Ph: 07 4938 4711

Roma

44-46 Bungil Street
Roma 4455
Ph: 07 4624 3020

Southport

4/83 Scarborough Street
Southport 4215
Ph: 07 5583 5555

Thuringowa

Units 4 and 5, Kirwan Plaza
40 Thuringowa Drive
Kirwan, Thuringowa, 4817
Ph: 07 4726 1666.

Thursday Island

Lvl 1, 80-82 Douglas St
Thursday Island 4875
Ph: 07 4090 2048

Toowoomba

171 Hume Street
Toowoomba 4350
Ph: 07 4638 6400

Townsville

Lvl 1, 131 Denham St
Townsville 4810
Ph: 07 4760 7568

Wynnum

Lvl 2, 71 Clara St
Wynnum 4178
Ph: 07 3396 8864