

# 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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