

Our Volunteers

SURVEY SUMMARY

Our volunteers give over
\$1 million dollars
worth of free services to
vulnerable Queenslanders.

60 volunteers are engaged each month.

200 volunteers are on our books.

8688 hours of legal advice per annum are provided by our volunteers.



of our volunteers found
volunteering at Caxton
personally rewarding



are senior lawyers, ensuring
high-quality legal assistance
for our clients

Services Provided by our Volunteer Lawyers and Students

- legal advice at day and evening advice clinics
- phone calls, legal information and referrals
- pro bono representation for Caxton clients and legal research
- organisational, administrative and paralegal support
- secondments
- management committee roles



Profiling

Ellie Bassingthwaite

employment lawyer

What do you get out of volunteering at Caxton?

... at first, it was due to a desire to improve my skills as a lawyer by ... being called on to answer any questions, from across my practice area, with limited advanced notice ... In those early days, I never left a volunteer session without having learned something new.

Now, a few years later and a little bit wiser, I still enjoy ... the opportunity to answer their [the clients] questions and address their concerns. The collegiate nature of the sessions and the opportunity to discuss unique and complex legal questions with [other] solicitors ... is also a feature that keeps me coming back.

What does a typical volunteer shift look like?

Volunteers usually arrive around 6 pm to review the client list for conflicts and select the matters. Gone are the days spent writing up file notes by hand ... we now have laptops. Volunteers usually see one to three clients in an evening, and there is always a chance to discuss the advice provided with colleagues, prior to it being checked and sent out to the client for their records. While late nights are sometimes required, they are far and away the exception rather than the norm.

What is your advice to someone considering volunteering?

Caxton has been so accommodating of my [other] commitments, that I would encourage anyone [to give it a go] ... regardless of the time commitment you are able to provide.

Caxton's clients are almost unfailingly gracious and grateful for the opportunity to speak to someone about their matter, and their appreciation does make the additional couple of hours after work, well, worthwhile.