

## COMMENTARY

In the May, 1989 issue of "The Arbitrator" Vol 8 No 1 the commentary concerned the role of the volunteer in society. Most of us think of such people as those who give of their time, energies and expertise to charitable organisations and the like and few of us are consciously aware that professional bodies across the board operate largely with the assistance of such people.

On the 17th February over 124 candidates sat the Institute's grading examination. Nine "volunteers" are involved in setting and marking the papers, (which in itself is no small task) fifteen people supervised the examination around Australia and overseas, approx. 40 people provided assistance at pre examination tutorials not to mention those who give of their time and expertise by presenting papers at the General and Advanced Arbitration Courses and in preparing papers for distribution to those who attended those courses. By comparison the contribution made by paid personnel was minimal. To put a time on the contribution made by these volunteers would be difficult, to put a dollar value would be almost impossible.

Without the input of volunteers this Institute and indeed the vast majority of professional organisations would not be able to operate at the level which they do nor would the service they give to members be anything like it is at present. The cost of membership and the cost of services given to members would be considerably greater than it is and in that situation some members would possibly query, on the basis of cost benefit, the benefit of membership.

Examination, education and training is an important part of the Institute's overall activities. Other volunteers are involved in such areas as Journal publication, the writing of practice notes, Council and Chapter Committees, pupillage schemes and public relations to name but a few.

Our Institute is fortunate to have amongst its membership and friends, those who so freely give of their time and energies in its interest. Its high standing and reputation which has been achieved over the past seventeen years is fine testimony to the hard work, dedication, and foresight of these volunteers. We all owe them a deep debt of gratitude.