

Question on Notice – Construction Industry Drug and Alcohol Foundation

Question from The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I think that's one of the challenges. We have seen volunteering in Australia and others certainly go backwards to where it was at. With the model in Japan, is it supported by government in any way to recruit volunteers or is it purely driven more by that community spirit or the desire to be involved?

Response from Jessica Taylor (CIDAF).

The Nagayama model is a prime example of a community-based integrated care system where government support and community participation work together to recruit volunteers and drive local engagement. Government support is evident in several foundational aspects of the model. For instance, the local government has played a pivotal role by commissioning initiatives like the community café project, initiated by the Tama City Government in 2001, designed to enhance social participation among seniors. Although the café later evolved into a non-profit endeavour managed by local residents, the initial push and policy framework provided by the government were crucial in establishing the project and its volunteer-driven activities.

Regular government-sponsored workshops, such as the “Nagayama district workshop,” further illustrate a dual approach of collaboration. These workshops gathered diverse stakeholders—including local authorities, community members, non-profit organisations, and private enterprises—to collaboratively design and implement social support measures. While government funding and policy direction laid the groundwork for these initiatives, the actual mobilisation of volunteers stemmed largely from the inherent community spirit. Local residents, driven by a deep-seated desire to support one another and create an age-friendly environment, stepped in to volunteer their time and expertise.

While the Nagayama Model is not purely community-driven, the government’s role is more that of a facilitator providing structural support, funding, resources, and a conducive policy environment. The genuine enthusiasm and solidarity among residents ultimately energise the volunteer recruitment process, making it a hybrid model where public initiatives and community engagement are mutually reinforcing.

References

Leng Leng Thang, Yoshimichi Yui, Yoshiki Wakabayashi, Hitoshi Miyazawa. (2023). Promoting age-friendly community of support and care in Japan's aging neighborhood: The Nagayama model, *Aging and Health Research*, 3(1). 100111.