

**UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION
OF AUSTRALIA**



BULLETIN

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11 January 2012

To All UFU MEMBERS

**The “Fair Protection for Firefighters” Bill
receives Royal Assent**

The United Firefighters Union of Australia National Office, on behalf of the National Executive and the National Committee of Management, is proud to announce that the Governor General has granted Royal Assent to the “Fair Protection for Firefighters” legislation.

This means that the Act is now in force and Aviation and ACT firefighters are now able to access workers compensation entitlements through presumption legislation for occupational cancer.

On behalf of the National Executive and the National Committee of Management, both the President Mick Farrell and I as National Secretary, congratulate each and every member of the UFUA for a very successful campaign based on a progressive national union with a foundation of solidarity to advance the interests of firefighters in Australia.

It is worth noting that Australia is only the third country to have presumption legislation recognising occupational cancer for firefighters. Australia follows on from advancements in this type of legislation in the United States of America and Canada.

Members are also informed that the National Executive has recently discussed furthering the implementation of the above type of legislation of which members will be informed about in the near future.

This is a very proud day for our national union in achieving this benefit for current and future generations of firefighters.

It is also worth noting that Federal Parliament records now contain the unanimous vote on this legislation and the high regard that firefighters and the United Firefighters Union of Australia are held by our Federal Parliamentarians.

We give special thanks to our global alliance colleagues, in particular United Fire Fighters Union of Winnipeg President and IAFF Canadian Trustee Alex Forrest and Edmonton Chief Fire Officer Ken Block who travelled all the way from Canada to give evidence to the Senate inquiry into the Bill on behalf of the UFUA.

Finally, we express our sincere appreciation to Greens MP Adam Bandt who introduced the Private Members Bill, Labor MP Maria Vamvakinou and Liberal MP Russell Broadbent who co-sponsored the Bill and Independent MP Bob Katter who seconded the Bill in the House of Representatives, as well as Labor Senator Gavin Marshall who chaired the Senate Committee that inquired into the Bill, Committee Deputy Chair Liberal Senator Chris Back, Committee member Greens Senator Penny Wright and Liberal Senator Eric Abetz who actively supported the Bill.

Strength in Unity

AUTHORISED BY NATIONAL SECRETARY PETER MARSHALL

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