

UFUA NATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 008

14 March 2012

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

UFUA NATIONAL APPROACH GAINS MOMENTUM

Following on from the successful enactment of the presumptive legislation for firefighters who are diagnosed with occupational cancer in the ACT and Aviation branches, and in accordance with the National Executive presumptive legislation program, the United Firefighters Union of Australia is pleased to announce the following:

Western Australia

1. Legislation has been tabled in the Western Australia Legislative Assembly.
 - Extensive media coverage has been generated regarding the risk of occupational cancer to firefighters.
 - UFUA global partners representatives Edmonton Fire Chief Ken Block and Winnipeg Fire Fighters Union President and IAFF Canadian Trustee Alex Forrest have briefed WA parliamentarians on this matter.
 - Additionally there have been high level meetings with operational personnel within the WA fire service FESA.
 - The matter is now proceeding in accordance with the parliamentary processes.

Tasmania

2. Following on from the events in WA, the Minister for Police and Emergency Management in Tasmania today moved the following motion after having met with a United Firefighters Union of Australia delegation and our global partners Fire Chief Ken Block and Winnipeg Fire Fighters Union President Alex Forrest.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That the House:

(a) Recognises that firefighters risk their lives, day in, day out, in the protection of life and property. These brave men and women regularly place themselves in harm's way to protect the communities that they serve. When most people's natural instinct is to flee from fires, these brave firefighters put their own safety at risk in the service of others.

(b) Acknowledges the delegation of:

- Chief Officer Ken Block, from Edmonton Fire Rescue Services***
- Mr Alex Forrest, President of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg***
- Mr Peter Marshall, National Secretary of the United Firefighters Union of Australia, and***
- Mr Vincent Males, President of the Tasmania Branch of the United Firefighters Union of Australia***

who met with me yesterday to discuss the issue of presumptive legislation for firefighters who contract cancer as a direct result of the important work that they perform.

(c) Notes that Chief Officer Block and Mr Forrest are recognised worldwide as experts in the subject matter and have previously provided briefings to the Senate Select Committee in the development of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Bill 2011, which lead to the passage of federal legislation in December 2011.

(d) Notes that Labor Governments in Tasmania have a strong history of protecting workers through the implementation of proactive legislation such the smoke free workplaces legislation and more recently a no fault Asbestos Compensation scheme

(e) Further notes, my commitment, as both Minister for Police and Emergency Management and Minister for

Workplace Relations, to further exploring this issue within the Tasmanian context in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, including:

- *The Workcover Tasmania Board*
- *The Tasmania Fire Service, and*
- *The United Firefighters Union.*

The United Firefighters Union of Australia strongly believes that we will eventually achieve our collective aim of ensuring that firefighters throughout Australia, irrespective of state or territory, will have the protection of presumptive legislation for occupational cancer.

An announcement on the further roll-out of similar legislation in other states will be announced in the near future.

Strength in Unity
AUTHORISED BY NATIONAL SECRETARY
PETER MARSHALL
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