



UFUA Aviation Branch

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SITREP

3 MINUTES TO LIVE - KEEP OUR SKIES SAFE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

11/5/2022

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS

I am writing to you about our new [‘3 Minutes to Live - Keep Our Skies Safe’](#) campaign and how you can help to make it a success.

As you are aware, we have been fighting a long battle with Airservices and the Federal Government to oppose the underfunding and under resourcing of ARFFS across Australia for many years. In the 2019 Senate Inquiry into ARFFS several recommendations were made that if adopted, would push our service in the right direction, in the direction of a world class ARFFS provider.

Airservices’ decision to incentivise the retirement of just under 100 aviation firefighters during the pandemic has left us critically short at key hubs across Australia. The Task Resource Analysis (TRA) program had already identified issues with current approved staffing ratios. The ‘remission factor’ has recently been sought and approved for Category 10 aircraft. Combined these issues undermine our ability to protect the lives of air travellers and airport visitors.

[Sydney ARFFS has seen firefighter numbers cut from 94 to 77.](#) In Melbourne, numbers have been slashed from 91 to 65 and on the Gold Coast staff numbers have fallen from 31 to 21, and as many of our members are already aware it’s a similar story at many other locations across the ARFFS network.

Pre-COVID, Sydney and Melbourne ARFFS ran crews of 17 firefighters; today that number stands at just 11. Due to Airservices choosing to apply remission and cross crewing of the DRV.

If we don’t take action now to oppose this, when disaster strikes we simply won’t have the resources we need to achieve our operational objectives, and that puts firefighter safety and that of the community’s at serious risk.

Our campaign [‘3 Minutes to Live - Keep Our Skies Safe’](#) aims to educate the public about the problems in aviation firefighting that we currently face and what needs to be done, and to recruit their support so we can put pressure on the next Federal Government.

With the Federal election campaign in full swing, now is the perfect time to lobby to all candidates and political parties to get them to commit to addressing the white-anting of ARFFS provision in Australia.

I CANNOT STRESS HOW IMPORTANT YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT IS TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS CAMPAIGN. (Continued on page 2)





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AS A GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN OUR SUCCESS RELIES ON YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ALSO BECOME SUPPORTERS AND TAKE THE ACTIONS TOO.

FIRE COMMANDERS PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SIT DOWN WITH YOUR CREWS AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SEND AN INDIVIDUAL MESSAGE THROUGH TO THE POLITICIANS.

Here's how you can help:

- [Send a message to the politicians](#) - Use our dedicated '[3 Minutes to Live - Keep Our Skies Safe](#)' website to send a message to Scott Morrison, Anthony Albanese, Adam Bandt and other candidates asking them to support our campaign.
- **Forward to a friend** - Forward this email to three family members or friends and ask them to support aviation firefighters by sending a message to the politicians.
- [Follow us on Facebook](#) - we'll be using Facebook to reach more supporters with our campaign messages and we need your help to spread the word. Please follow the '3 Minutes to Live - Keep Our Skies Safe' Facebook page and share the content we post on your own page.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions about this campaign, please don't hesitate to contact the Union office.

Regards,

Wesley Garrett,
Secretary
UFUA Aviation Branch

