



# Media Release

## *UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION – QLD*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Firefighters union welcomes parliamentary debate into cancer protection for firies.**

“Our members are pleased that the issue of presumptive legislation for firefighters is finally being debated in parliament” said John Oliver State Secretary of the United Firefighters Union (UFUQ).”

“UFUQ have been agitating about this issue for a number of years.”

“Both the former LNP government and the incoming ALP government gave commitments to the union about introducing the legislation, prior the last election.”

“Presumptive legislation specifies certain cancers and related conditions caused by exposure to hazards experienced in the firefighting occupation.”

“In the event a firefighter develops a condition, the onus of proof is reversed onto the employer, insurance companies and workers’ compensation authorities to prove that the employee’s medical condition is **not** work related.”

“This is a significant benefit to a worker who does not have to prove that the condition is caused by work. The condition is presumed to be work related.”

“We had been informed that the government was drafting a presumptive legislation bill, and we note that the opposition has introduced a private members’ Bill.”

“We haven’t seen the detail of the LNP private members’ bill yet, or the proposed government bill, but we are keen to comment during parliamentary committee processes.”

“I haven’t had an opportunity to read the Hansard yet, or follow the political competition between the ALP and the LNP that is being reported.”

“Based on our discussions with politicians over the past couple of years, we expect the legislation to be based upon the federal legislation achieved through the national firefighters’ union campaign commenced in 2007, supported by our international US and Canadian unions IAFF affiliates and state based firefighting unions, particularly UFUQ.”

“We expect both political parties to resolve any slight differences they might have about technical matters in the legislation, and ultimately end up with bi-partisan support for such important legislation.”

“In one way it’s good to see political parties competing between each other to see which party will look after firies best, it’s not a bad position to be in.”

“But realistically we just want to look after and protect Queenslanders and we hope that Queenslanders, through the parliament, look after us.”

**For Further Media Information Contact:**

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