

CODE 2

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF THE
UNITED FIREFIGHTERS
UNION OF AUSTRALIA,
UNION OF EMPLOYEES,
QUEENSLAND.

Volume 26 Number 12

14th March 2012

Operational Support Unit/Vehicle (Dispute)

I wish to advise that Deputy President Adrian Bloomfield (QIRC), QFRS and the UFU travelled to Gladstone as a follow up to our Operational Support Unit (OSU) dispute conference on the 6th March 2012.

The meeting on the 8th March was conducted with the involvement of the Gladstone on-shift crew and the concerns raised were taken into consideration by the Deputy President. I wish to thank the Gladstone Firefighters and local UFU representatives for their professional approach, especially describing their working day and the safety concerns raised.

The Senior Industrial Officer and I will be in the QIRC on the 19th of March for a further conference to progress this matter.

Presumptive Legislation

Members would be aware that the United Firefighters Union has been seeking the introduction of Presumptive legislation Laws for each State, after it was introduced and passed successfully through Federal Parliament. This Federal Legislation currently only allows for ACT and Aviation Firefighters to be covered by these laws.

The National Executive (State Secretaries of each State) decided that the best chance of these laws being introduced for all Firefighters was to focus on one State at a time. The timing of the introduction of these Laws into each State Parliament was dependent on political and legislative circumstances of each State. As you are aware QLD is currently in "caretaker mode" due to the State Elections and cannot formally progress this issue at this point in time.

However, I have written to Premier Anna Bligh, Leader of the LNP Campbell Newman, Minister for Industrial Relations and Education Cameron Dick and Leader of the Opposition Jeff Seeney regarding the introduction of these Laws into QLD. Once I have return correspondence from all of the above, I will publish their responses on our Website and notify you via Code 2.

I have attached a National Bulletin for an update on the current progress in WA and Tasmania where we are currently focussing our attention.

John Oliver
State Secretary



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 programme, 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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