

Minister Jack Dempsey Ignores Firefighters!

The Honourable Mr Jack Dempsey is a former police officer and the elected LNP member for Bundaberg. Mr Dempsey is also our Minister for Emergency Services.

I have written on behalf of firefighters to Minister Dempsey on numerous occasions. I have written letters seeking a meeting to inform him about key issues of concern to firefighters. I have subsequently sought to meet with him about firefighters' enterprise bargaining concerns.

UFU and United Voice (Ambulance Union) also wrote to the Minister expressing alarm about the government's demands to abolish 'consultation' with firefighters and ambulance officers, seeking assurances that QAS would be retained as part of the Department of Community Safety and that staffing levels within the Department of Community Safety would be maintained.

Despite my numerous attempts to correspond, your union has not even been given the courtesy of a reply from the Minister.

Your union has always been able to meet and communicate with the emergency services ministers in the past and although we have not always agreed we have often been able to find common ground. After all, we are all supposed to be working to keep Queenslanders safe.

The current attitude of Minister Dempsey towards firefighters is very concerning. We should expect some courtesy and respect from our Minister.

I will continue to press for a meeting but won't hold my breath! If this union continues to be snubbed by our Minister, our Union will take other measures to gain his attention.

In the meantime, if you haven't already, please visit the petition below:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/minister-for-community-safety-we-want-our-minister-to-stand-with-us-not-against-us>

John Oliver
State Secretary