



The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association

"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

CFSVA General Meeting Outcomes Summary Paper October 2017

Road Show

Road Show now complete and was successful.

Contact was made with number of volunteers from across the state, and some good points raised that will be used in compiling the CFSVA positions document

CFSVA team happy to attend brigade / groups meeting – contact Sonia St Alban or Kirsti Oliver to arrange.

CFSVA Positions / Policy Document

Information collected for the road show now being prepared as pre-election document.

David Lindner is Chair of this committee and is seeking input from a representative from each region to ensure balanced position.

Document will be in 2 parts: One will be a brief generalised document, supported by a more robust and concise document similar to the one prepared in the lead up to the 2014 state election.

Appointment of a new Minister

New Minister is Chris Picton.

CFSVA had introductory meeting with Minister earlier this week.

Matters such as the SAFECOM Board, CFS Volunteer Charter / Sector Advisory Committee were raised and are to be followed up.

Future Direction for Volunteer Finance (SAFECOM)

Volunteers have raised concerns in relation to the management of brigade funds under the current presentation being delivered by Rob Perry.

The CFSVA has received a number of calls in relation to this issue and has asked Branch

Presidents and delegates to seek more feedback from their region and refer the information back as soon as possible to enable further discussion.

Return to Work

The CFSVA will work with the Minister to ensure that the extension of Return to Work beyond the current 2 year time frame for emergency responders is passed on to CFS volunteers.

The CFSVA has sought legal advice and is progressing this matter.

In the interim the CFSVA has an interim commitment from the Minister whilst negotiations continue.

CFSVA Top up insurance for Volunteers

The CFSVA "top up insurance" is payable to CFS volunteers who are injured in the line of CFS duty whilst engaging in prescribed CFS activities.

Payments amounts are as follows:

- CFS Volunteer Members up to 80 years of age – payment of up to \$100,000
- CFS Volunteers Members aged between 81 – 90 years of age – payment of \$50,000

It was explained that percentage payments for permanent impairments are determined by the Insurance Council of Australia and are based on advice from the Medical Association.

Guest Speakers:

The Hon Robert Brokenshire MLC

Robert Brokenshire recently introduced a Private Members Bill into Parliament which seeks to have the CFS Volunteer Charter placed into legislation.

It was made clear that the Volunteer Charter is an essential tool to ensure consultation and protection for CFS volunteers.

Enshrining the charter into legislation has long been pushed by the CFSVA and it is important that volunteers get behind this Bill and write to Members of Parliament asking for their support.

The CFSVA in the coming days will forward to Branches a summary of the key points in relation to this legislation which will enable volunteers to write informed letter to MPs.

Robert's presentation and support for CFS volunteers over many years is well appreciated.

Alison Martin – CFS Media

CFSVA – Volunteer Welfare Survey

Alison provided an overview of the CFS Communications survey indicated that about 10% of volunteers had responded.

Given the diversity of CFS it is difficult to find one method that suits all.

There was considerable discussion about the application and success of various methods of communication, which have been noted and will be considered in the communication strategy.

The CFSVA indicated interest in the outcomes as this has been raised as an issue by volunteers in relation to both the CFS and CFSVA and is being addressed by the CFSVA Management Committee and in the CFSVA Positions Document.

Branch Issues (to be referred to CFSVA Management Committee)

Lofty Branch: Understaffing at Regional level

Kangaroo Island Branch: Issue raised about increase tourism to the island (including more flights and new ferry service) – will emergency services be able to cope?

Lower North Branch:

SAAS policy of not responding to all road crashes raised through the Region and passed on to the CFSVA

Addressing Branch communications

Conflicting information in dismissal policy

Yorke Peninsula Branch:

Paskeville Field Days – CFS / CFSVA attended (for noting)

Murraylands Branch:

Re-establishment of Branch

Questioned lack of recognition of prior learning for volunteers transferring from interstate.

Training does not report to COAC – Why not?

SE Branch:

Tabled several questions raised by the SE Branch and representative satisfied that a number of those questions had been addressed during the course of the meeting.

Other Business (to be referred to CFSVA Management Committee)

- Point raised that volunteers would like to be acknowledged as volunteers and that consideration be given to providing “Volunteer” stickers for trucks
- Motion was put forward that the CFSVA lobbies the current Minister to secure 6 additional FTE (including ancillary equipment and costs) for the regions
- Motion was put forward that the Minister be approached in relation to the future of CFS Development and Assessment Team.
- SE Memorial Day Concert – 6th April 2018 – Naracoorte – All welcome.

REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL SOON BE POSTED ON THE CFSVA WEBSITE: www.cfsva.org.au

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