



CFSVA

BULLETIN



**DECEMBER
2013**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) is recognised as an association under the SA Fire and Emergency Services act 2005. The association represents SA Country Fire Service (CFS) brigades and is empowered to take such steps as may be reasonably available to it to protect and progress the interests and welfare of CFS volunteers.

This bulletin provides an update on some of the news and current affairs affecting CFS members.



The CFSVA wish all the CFS Volunteers and their families a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.



**WHAT A GREAT THANK YOU TO CFS
VOLUNTEERS ENTERING A NEW
FIRE SEASON!**

**THE WEATHERILL GOVERNMENT
DID NOT STAND UP FOR YOU!**

**THE LIBERAL PARTY TURNED ITS
BACK ON YOU!**

THE CFSVA WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS DISCRIMINATION

The Weatherill Government with the support of the Liberals turned its back on CFS volunteers opting to provide full presumptive legislation to MFS paid and retained fire fighters whilst setting barriers for CFS volunteers to ensure that only CFS volunteers who "fit" the Government's budget qualify. The Liberals had supported CFS volunteers and indeed provided encouragement throughout the CFSVA campaign, yet at the last minute, and without notice backed the Government's Amended Bill. Under these amendments only CFS Volunteers who attend 35 "fires" per year for 5 years equalling 175 responses will qualify which will effectively exclude 13,000 CFS Volunteers.



The Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association



www.cfsva.or.gau

THE CFSVA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 20th DECEMBER AND REOPEN ON 6TH JANUARY 2014

CFSVA Sanctions

The CFSVA has imposed a series of sanctions since the Government's snub of CFS volunteers. These sanctions have been created to draw attention to the discrimination by the elected government towards CFS volunteers and must not impact on normal emergency responses. CFS volunteers are encouraged to apply the sanctions only if and when appropriate, but realises that not all sanctions will be applicable to all regions. The CFSVA campaign will continue until the March 2014 State Election or until a satisfactory result for CFS volunteers is obtained.

These sanctions are posted on the CFSVA website: www.cfsva.org.au

25kph passed emergency vehicles

The 25kph passed emergency vehicles legislation is being progressed through DTUP, the CFSVA continues to monitor the process of implementing this legislation and continues to remind members that a safe workplace or work environment is essential for the protection of volunteers responding to emergencies and that any necessary steps to create this safe work environment must be implemented.

Dealing with Workplace Bullying – November 2013

Guide for Managing the Risk of Fatigue at Work - November 2013

Please note that both these documents have recently been released and are available through the CFSVA or Safework Australia.

CFSVA Election Policies

The CFSVA election policy booklet has now been printed, with a number of copies already disseminated. The policies have been well received so far, and the CFSVA will continue to distribute copies with a view to obtaining a commitment from politicians in the lead up to the March State Election.

CFSVA Membership Card

The CFSVA membership card is progressing well, with the CFSVA currently in negotiations with a major supplier. At this stage it is anticipated that the CFSVA membership card will be launched in the New Year. In the meantime the CFSVA continues to look for businesses that may be interested in participating in the scheme either as a supplier or as volunteer owned and operated business. Contact details of these businesses should be forwarded to the CFSVA by email: admin@cfsva.org.au

Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act (1986) (Protection for firefighters) Amendment Bill 2012

On the 26th November 2013 a delegation from the CFSVA presented a petition to Parliament which sought the equality of all fire fighters under the Presumptive Legislation. The Bill was to be debated in Parliament that day and the delegation, after presenting the petition invited to listen to the debate in the public gallery. The delegation filled the gallery, however, just as the three previous times when CFS volunteers appeared, the debate was suddenly adjourned. If Minister Rau your position not to include CFS volunteers is justified, why does the Government not debate the matter whilst CFS volunteers are present???? The Bill was debated later that day when the Government was sure that there would be no CFS volunteers or media present!

On the 28th November 2013, during the last minutes of Parliament for 2013, your "elected" Government with the support of the Opposition turned its back on CFS volunteers opting to provide full presumptive legislation to MFS career and retained fire fighters whilst setting barriers for CFS volunteers to ensure that only CFS volunteers who "fit" into the Government's budget qualify. CFS volunteers must attend 35 "fires" per year for 5 years totaling 175 "fires" in order to qualify for the Presumptive legislation. The reason provided by Government as justification for the double standard is "we" (the Government) can't afford to fund presumptive legislation for all CFS volunteers. The Opposition (Liberals) had up until this time supported CFS volunteers and indeed provided encouragement throughout the CFSVA campaign, yet at the last minute, and without notice supported and backed the Government's Bill and thereby allowed the amended Government's Bill to pass both houses of Parliament.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CFS VOLUNTEERS RECEIVING AWARDS ON THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2013

**RUSSELL BRANSON – CFS – MEDAL
MATTHEW DAVIS – CFS- COMMENDATION
ROBERT POPE – CFS – COMMENDATION
GARTH HOGARTH – CFS COMMENDATION**

