



BULLETIN - JUNE 2014

EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR REFORM

The CFSVA Executive Committee recently participated in the first of series of roundtable discussions as part of an Emergency Services sector reform process. The aim of the process is for each Agency to bring forward ideas that have the scope to improve the delivery of services and identify cost savings, some of which can be re-directed back to the sector.

Preliminary discussions established a series of principles which will underpin this reform process.

Key principles are as follows (not in any particular order and more may be identified):

- Establish service equity
- Evidence based decision making
- Volunteer voice to be represented at the highest level
- Acknowledge importance of volunteers to fire and rescue services
- Focus on service delivery to communities
- An integrated approach to allocate resources and deliver services on a statewide basis to avoid duplication of resources (Not a “one fire service” model)
- Structure to provide involvement of all stakeholders on an on going basis
- Flexibility of delivery and reform as “one size” does not fit all
- Importance of maintaining current brand and identity
- Where sufficient risk and activity dicates transistion from volunteer to full time service
- Staff selection equity process for all in the Sector
- Maintain accepted and proven incident management methods

The discussions were positive and certainly provided due consideration to the important role of CFS, both volunteers and staff, in emergency management. We emphasise that discussions are preliminary at this stage and urge all volunteers to participate in the road show planned by Minister Piccolo in the coming weeks.

Thank you also to all volunteers who recently attended CFSVA meetings, your input was invaluable.

PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION

Tammy Franks' Bill (Greens) successfully passed through the Legislative Council, last week and has now been referred to the House of Representatives where it will be tabled by Duncan McFetridge. This Bill provides equality for all firefighters under the Presumptive Legislation regardless of whether the firefighter is a volunteer or paid.

The CFSVA understands that the Bill will go to vote on the 24th July 2014 and will be in contact with volunteers in the lead up.

In the meantime the Labor Party has honoured its pre-election commitment to of a review, which is now underway. The CFSVA make it clear that a review is not our preferred option, as the presumptive legislation should be one of equity for all firefighters, but appreciates the ability to work with Government on this very important matter until such time as the best outcome for CFS volunteers is achieved.

SANCTIONS

The CFSVA Management Committee last week agreed to lift sanctions in the interim with the proviso that they may be re-introduced at any time depending on the outcome of the presumptive legislation review.

We thank all CFS volunteers for supporting the CFSVA in implementing the sanctions and hope that we do not have to call on you to re-instate them.

For further information or to comment:

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