

CAVFA Report
(Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations)

To CFSVA AGM

23rd October 2023

There was only one meeting held for the full membership of CAVFA over the past 12 months. This was held prior to the AFAC conference in Brisbane on 21st and 22nd of August which I attended.

Report was given on activities of the Executive. They attended the annual National Memorial Service in May at Canberra. After that event, MoUs were signed with AFAC and the national SESVA. Positive discussions with Rob Webb, AFAC CEO included topics of psychosocial hazards, recognition of training across jurisdictions and the differences in training offered between each state. Discussions with NSESVA included topics of national recognition of training and portability of skills, to keep each other informed of current discussions and work collaboratively on some issues to lobby the federal government.

There has been a recommendation that a number of additional cancers (many being female specific) be added to the current list for presumptive legislation. Victoria had put together a table outlining where each state stood in regards to what cancers are covered with SA lagging behind many of the other states. CAVFA wrote to each state Minister on behalf of the state Associations requesting that they add the new cancers. I note that WA has recently added PTSD for Fire and Rescue Members with some other states considering it.

Discussion about international deployments and effects on volunteers being involved. Also for all Associations to consider having DGR status so they can attract external funding. CAVFA looking at a way it can be done as a collective making it easier for each Association.

The executive met with the Federal Minister's advisor. CAVFA want to be able to make more noise in Canberra as the federal government becomes more involved in the emergency response area now. Couple of the key points raised was DGR status and request that the Federal Minister pressure the State Ministers to get the presumptive cancer consistent across the nation.

CAVFA spent a couple hours developing a basic strategic plan which incorporates a small work plan and how the organization interacts with its members.

CAVFA elects its directors annually and office holders biennially. I was asked if I would stand for one of the Director positions and was elected to that role for the ensuing 12 months.

David Lindner