



MEDIA RELEASE – country radio only

Monday, 11 February 2013

CFA volunteers call for Firefighters' Cancer Law

CFA volunteers are urging all State MPs to support new legislation giving firefighters easier access to cancer compensation.

Peter Beaton of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) said a senate inquiry found plenty of research shows certain types of cancer are far more common among firefighters.

“Volunteers and career firefighters are already entitled to cancer compensation, but it’s very hard to prove the cancer was caused by a fire that might have been years ago,” Mr Beaton said.

“The legislation covers 12 typical firefighter cancers and would change the law so they’re assumed to be work related,” he said.

“Then the firefighter can concentrate on treatment instead of a court case.”

“The Greens and Labor are supporting it, and CFA volunteers are looking to all the parties to agree, just as they did with a similar federal law two years ago,” Mr Beaton said.

Ends...

VFBV media contact: Peter Beaton 0419 504 111