

From the Chief Officer

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Management and Assessment of Career and Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Related Claims

Almost nine months has passed since the Firefighters Assessment Panel and the Firefighter Advisory Service was introduced to help manage and assess career and volunteer firefighter cancer-related claims. The Firefighters Assessment Panel is managed by WorkSafe with the support of CFA and comprises expert medical, technical and claims specialists to ensure prompt, compassionate and fair assessments for all firefighter cancer-related claims.

The health and safety of CFA members will always be our number one priority and we encourage you to use these services if you feel they may apply to you. **Claimants do not need to prove which fire or incident caused the cancer.** A detailed report of all incidents you have attended is provided from our Fire and Incident Reporting System and claimants have the opportunity to elaborate on any or all events and provide additional information if they wish. Past and present firefighters who have a work related illness contracted through firefighting are entitled to compensation, either through CFA (for volunteers) or WorkSafe Victoria (for career firefighters).

All members – both career and volunteer firefighters can contact the Firefighter Advisory Service by calling 1800 060 729 or emailing firefighterinfo@worksafe.vic.gov.au (for career firefighters) or firefighterinfo@cfa.vic.gov.au (for volunteer firefighters).

Volunteer firefighters who would like information about making a claim can visit [CFA online](#). Career firefighters can access information about making a claim through [WorkSafe's website](#) or via the [CFA website](#).

Please remember these support services are here to help you, as you continue to support our community every day.

Emergency Services 2014 Blood Challenge

The Emergency Services 2014 Blood Challenge will be run between 16 June and 15 August 2014. CFA currently holds the record for the 'Highest Number of Donations' in 2013 for our organisations size. Register your blood donation to CFA either online or when you donate. Winter is always a challenge to maintain blood supplies, I encourage all existing donors to support the challenge as well as encourage new donors to participate. A single donation can save the lives of up to three people. To donate phone 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au.

Congratulations to Queen's Birthday 2014 Honour Recipients

The Queen's Birthday 2014 Honours were announced by the Governor-General on the 9 June 2014. Current and former CFA members were recognised. The recipients are:

- Noman Bowen - Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)
- Phil Hawkey – Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM)
- Graham Simpson – Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM)
- Brian Potter QFSM - Member of the Order of Australia (AM) – posthumously honoured.

The honours are formal recognition of dedication, leadership, commitment and 'making a difference' – Congratulation to all.

More information on each of the recipients is available from the news and media section of the CFA website.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead