

The VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund

CFA volunteers devote their time to helping others. However, like any member of the community, volunteers can find themselves in significant financial difficulty, through unforeseen emergencies such as loss of work, family illness or death, accidental injury or even natural disaster such as drought or floods.

The VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund was established to assist in ensuring the ongoing health and welfare of CFA volunteer members and their families when facing significant financial hardship.

How is the Fund financed?

The Fund raises money through Brigade subscriptions and the earnings of its investments to allow it to offer small grants.

VFBV meets all of the Fund's running and administrative costs, so every dollar earned by its investments can help volunteers in need.

The Fund accepts donations and bequests - see the back of this brochure for details.

The VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund

The Fund welcomes donations and bequests and will consider offers of sponsorship.

Tax deductible credit card donations are accepted at www.vfbv.com.au

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For more information:

Talk to your Brigade Secretary

Visit www.vfbv.com.au

Call (03) 9886 1141

Email welfare@vfbv.com.au

Write to the VFBV Welfare Fund Secretary,
PO Box 453, Mt Waverley Vic 3149

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) is the CFA volunteers' association. Please visit our website for more information about what we do:

www.vfbv.com.au



VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA



**VFBV Volunteer
Welfare Fund**

The VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund

The Fund makes small grants on a needs basis to CFA volunteers, long serving former volunteers and their families, who are experiencing significant financial hardship.

The grants are designed to alleviate stresses that can affect the individual's ability to continue as a volunteer.

Typical cases include volunteers affected by prolonged illness, bereavement, loss of earnings, or the accommodation and travel costs associated with supporting a relative in hospital.

A typical grant is a little over \$2,000 and helps with day to day living expenses.

All applications to the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund are kept strictly confidential.

The Fund is overseen by long serving CFA volunteers on a Committee of Management. It is run according to Australian Taxation Office rules for charities and independently audited.

Who is eligible

Brigades need to be affiliated with VFBV to subscribe to the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund.

Membership of the Welfare Fund requires payment by Brigades of an annual subscription fee. Brigade membership entitles coverage for volunteer members of that Brigade, as well as any ex-member of a Brigade who was a registered volunteer for 20 years or more.

A century of history

The Fund was established in 1913 by and for Urban Fire Brigades, with Brigade contributions and a £200 donation from the State Government. Since then, it has helped more than 1,000 volunteers with over \$1 million in grants.

VFBV expanded the Fund to offer coverage to all CFA Brigades in 2008. To assist, the State Government provided a one-off grant of \$2 million to create an investment base to help sustain the Fund into the future.

In recent years, on average the Fund has distributed up to \$120,000 to approx. 40 volunteers on an annual basis – an average grant of \$3,000.

How to apply for assistance

The Brigade Captain or Secretary contacts the VFBV office, which issues an individually numbered application form.

The Captain and Secretary then assist the claimant with the application, or may lodge the claim on their behalf.

The Captain and Secretary provide their recommendation, verification and signature, before the Brigade Secretary forwards the application and supporting documentation to the Fund Secretary.

Applications should include as much detail as possible so the Committee of Management can make an informed decision without delay.

The Committee of Management's decision will be final and without appeal, so check with the Fund Secretary if you need advice on the application or supporting documentation.

The Fund keeps all details confidential, and Brigades should handle applications with the utmost discretion.