



Media Release

25th September 2013

Country Fire Service Volunteers Health is essential to our Community

All firefighters regularly put their lives on the line for the benefit of the entire community. CFS volunteers have a long and proud history of going above and beyond the call of duty to help South Australian's, and deserve to be equally recognised in the proposed amendment.

We need to ensure that CFS firefighters have the same opportunities and protection as everybody else.

The Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation (SAMFS firefighters & Retained Firefighters) Amendment Bill applies to all firefighters, however the proposal in the Presumptive Legislation would create a tiered system which excludes all CFS volunteers.

There are 18 CFS locations across the Electorate of Frome. Those 18 CFS locations do exactly the same as our MFS firefighters. The CFS from Napperby, Crystal Brook and Port Broughton to name a few also assist the MFS people in Port Pirie.

They are full time, we have volunteers, retained and MFS personnel going to the same incident, inhaling the same odours, smoke or vapours. If somebody from the MFS or a retained and also a CFS volunteer contract one of these cancers, are we going to leave the CFS person out?

The onus of proof should no longer be on those who risk their lives for our safety every day. If a firefighter develops a specific cancer, they should be automatically covered under our workers' compensation.

I believe that this bill is discriminatory and I did not support it in this current format, I would very strongly urge the government to put just three letters into this bill: CFS.

I look forward to the actions of my colleagues in the Upper House when it is further debated.

Geoff Brock MP
Member for Frome