



RFSA
Rural Fire Service Association

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) and the New South Wales Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) concerning Workers Compensation for NSW Rural Fire Service Volunteers

PURPOSE:

To ensure that a co-operative approach is taken to the administration of Workers Compensation issues as they affect New South Wales Rural Fire Service Volunteers in a manner that recognises their commitment and dedication, and that of their families, in providing protection to the community.

PRINCIPLES:

1. The NSWRFS recognises that WorkCover NSW (the fund manager) is responsible for the administration of the Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act, 1987- (the Act).
2. Both the Fund Manager and the NSWRFS are committed to ensuring that claims for Workers Compensation are processed effectively and expeditiously on behalf of New South Wales Rural Fire Service Volunteers.
3. The NSWRFS and the RFSA acknowledge that from time to time in the administration of Workers Compensation for New South Wales Rural Fire Service Volunteers 'special circumstances' may arise that warrant further consideration beyond the scope of the Act.
4. In such cases the NSWRFS will take all necessary steps to ensure that the 'special circumstances' of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service Volunteer are resolved satisfactorily.
5. The NSWRFS also undertakes to ensure that appropriate treatment, care and financial assistance are afforded to New South Wales Rural Fire Service Volunteers and their families whilst the volunteer is determined as medically unfit.
6. The process by how these matters will be actioned will be as follows:
 - The matter will be brought to the attention of the Director Membership and Strategic Services, who will on behalf of the Commissioner, have the 'special circumstances' investigated.
 - The Director Membership and Strategic Services and appropriate staff will liaise with the Fund Manager with a view to resolving any issues under the provisions of the Act.
 - Where 'special circumstances' exist and are not provided for adequately under the Act, the Director will make appropriate recommendations to the Commissioner.
 - The Director Membership and Strategic Services will consult with the Rural Fire Service Association Workers Compensation Working Group (RFSAWCWG) on issues that require particular attention.
 - The health, safety and welfare of the injured volunteer and family will be the paramount consideration in the proper resolution of any matter.
7. In the consideration of these Principles both the NSWRFS and the RFSA acknowledge the ongoing need for dialogue and consultation in the administration of Workers Compensation issues affecting NSW Rural Fire Service Volunteers and their families.
8. The RFSAWCWG will continue to examine and resolve administrative and policy issues as well as advocating on specific matter/s that affect volunteers for example the NSWRFS will continue to consider reasonable and legitimate claims for loss or damage to personal property as may be claimed by NSWRFS volunteers.
9. The NSWRFS will continue to work closely with the Fund Manager conducting regular claims review meetings and ensuring the administration of claims are given the highest priority.
10. The Commissioner NSW Rural Fire Service and the President Rural Fire Service Association will meet, on a needs basis, to discuss issues regarding Workers Compensation matters and NSW Rural Fire Service Volunteers.

Shane Fitzsimmons, AFSM
Commissioner NSWRFS

Brian McKinlay, AFSM
President RFSA

Date: 19/06/2010