



IN BRIEF



The UFUA National website

At <http://ufua.asn.au>, it's a good spot to visit. New stories are posted each week and you can find the latest Australian Firefighter Magazine - or catch up on back issues.



Join the discussion

The UFUA Women's Network Forum is open to all UFUA members to discuss issues and exchange ideas. It's on the national website at <http://ufua.asn.au>, with a link on the front page.



Feedback

Dispatch is your Union's monthly national newsletter. We like your feedback, so send us your comments, suggestions - and even photos! Email them to editor@ufunat.asn.au

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FIREFIGHTERS FACE A NEW INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE © CHRIS MAXWELL FSMV

IR shift begins

New Australian Workplace Agreements will be gone by Easter as the Opposition caves into the Rudd Government's IR changes

With the Liberal and National parties abandoning plans to obstruct new national workplace laws in the Senate, the way is now clear for the abolition of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWA). "This looks like the beginning of the end for Howard era industrial relations," says UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall. While new AWAs may soon be a thing of the past, proposed temporary individual contracts, or ITEAs, and common law individual contracts will continue. "We will need to keep

an eye out for any growth in these," says Peter Marshall. "Collective bargaining and Union based enterprise agreements remain the only real assurance Australian workers have for getting a fair deal at work." A national industrial relations plan is now in the works. "With a number of branches in state IR jurisdictions, the prospect of a unitary system will present a challenge for the branches and our federal union to work our way forward," says Peter Marshall. "There could be some positives in this new environment- but we'll have to wait and see."

JOB SAFETY TREND TRAILS TARGETS

Australia will fail to meet its OH&S targets if current trends continue. "A new report shows a drop in workplace deaths and serious injury since 2000," says UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall. "But the rate of decline is not fast enough to reach national targets." These include a 20 per cent cut in work-related fatalities and a 40 per cent cut in workplace injuries by mid 2012.

"These figures reinforce the importance of the UFUA's national campaign for presumptive legislation," says Peter Marshall. "Presumptive laws will mean better support for firefighters who contract a work related illness. They will also focus state, territory and federal governments on the need to act more quickly to reduce exposure risks faced by firefighters."