



IN BRIEF



Australian Firefighter

Pick up a copy of The Australian Firefighter Magazine at work or download it from the Union website. "Check out how Prime Minister Rudd's IR policy will affect you at work," says Peter Marshall. "It's worth a read."



UFUA National Website

A good spot to visit. Read the new stories that are posted each week, join the forum discussion or download a copy of the Australian Firefighter Magazine. Find it at <http://ufua.asn.au>.



Feedback

Dispatch is your Union's national newsletter. It's published each month and we appreciate feedback. Send your comments, suggestions and photos (high resolution versions please) to editor@ufunat.asn.au

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As local fire services increasingly adopt global management strategies, Australian firefighters have helped establish an international firefighter union organisation. "To get maximum value out of this global alliance, we need an effective national Union here in Australia," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "That's one reason we've decided to review our Union's structure." The UFUA has teamed up with North American, British and New Zealand unions in the International Fire Fighter Unions Alliance (IFFUA).

National Check Up

With global forces affecting firefighters and a new industrial relations climate in Australia, a Union review is underway

The UFUA is facing new challenges. Evolving management practices and a changing of the guard in the nation's capital are the impetus for a review of the national Union. "We need a twenty first century structure to deal with 21C issues," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "We owe it our members to build a Union that will protect their interests and deliver wins across the next decade."

The review is being conducted by UFUA legal advisor Adam Bandt, who is currently visiting Branches to see how they operate, learn about the local issues each face and find out what value they see in the Union's national structure. Adam will also research the Union's rules, financial issues, national office procedures and the legislative framework. Branches are being asked to make submissions and Adam expects to present his report in September.

NATIONAL IR MAKEOVER

National Labor Party policy prescribes a move to a unitary industrial relations framework and that could mean the eventual abolition of state and territory IR systems. "A number of UFUA branches have awards and agreements registered at state or territory level," says Peter Marshall. "So, it's going to be a challenge working our way forward in this changing landscape. The UFUA national review will help us prepare for this challenge."