



United Firefighters Union

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BULLETIN

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To ALL UFU MEMBERS

WELLS PASSES THE BUCK!

The Napthine Government is shamefully ignoring Victorian firefighters in their time of need by refusing to even meet to discuss the need for legislation to recognise occupational cancer.

The UFU wrote to the Minister for Emergency Services formally requesting an opportunity to meet to discuss the need for presumptive legislation, to enable firefighters with cancer to be able to access medical assistance and entitlements as they can for any other work-related injury.

Minister Wells has refused to meet with the UFU and has attempted to wipe his hands of the issue by passing the buck to the Assistant Treasurer. His letter received today is included below.

In particular, the UFU wants to educate Minister Wells about the wealth of international research which is accepted by Canadian and US Governments and his own colleagues in the Australian Federal Parliament which had proven the link between firefighting and the contraction of specific cancers.

Minister Wells seems to have plenty of time to make inaccurate and outrageous statements in the media about the lack of research and misconstruing the purpose of Monash study, but has no time to talk to firefighters or the UFU.

Minister Wells' letter:

Dear Mr Marshall

Presumptive legislation for firefighters

Thank you for your correspondence received by my office on 19 June 2013, requesting a meeting with me to discuss the introduction in Victoria of presumptive legislation for firefighters who contract cancer.

As responsibility for this matter falls within the portfolio of the Assistant Treasurer, the Honourable Gordon Rich-Phillips MP, I have referred your correspondence to the Assistant Treasurer for his consideration and response. Accordingly, I am unable to meet with you at this time.

Please be assured that the Victorian Government recognises and greatly values the contribution made by firefighters to ensure the safety of the community. This is an important and complex matter you have raised and the Government is committed to an approach that is fair, reasonable, accessible and expeditious.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kim Wells', followed by the date '9/7/13' written in a similar cursive style.

KIM WELLS MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Bushfire Response

Strength in Unity
READ OUT AT MUSTER AND PIN ON NOTICE BOARD
Authorised by Peter Marshall, Branch Secretary