



## BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 017

21 December 2022

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

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# Commonwealth & ACT Presumptive Cancer Improvements take Effect on 17 December 2022

With reference to National Bulletin #015

<https://www.ufua.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Nat-Bulletin-015-Presumptive-Cancer-Increase-Legislation.pdf>, members are further advised that the Regulations adding 8 further cancers to Commonwealth firefighter presumptive cancer laws took effect on 17 December.

A link to the Regulation on the Commonwealth Legislation register can be found here (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022L01669>)

The new cancers and the relevant qualifying periods are:

<b>Prescribed kinds of cancer</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Disease</b>	<b>Qualifying period</b>
1	Primary site lung cancer	15 years
2	Primary site skin cancer	15 years
3	Primary site cervical cancer	10 years
4	Primary site ovarian cancer	10 years
5	Primary site penile cancer	15 years
6	Primary site pancreatic cancer	10 years
7	Primary site thyroid cancer	10 years
8	Malignant mesothelioma	15 years

Significantly the inclusion “applies in relation to a decision made under the Act (including a decision on reconsideration or review under Part VI of the Act), after the commencement of that instrument, in relation to a cancer mentioned in that section sustained by an employee on or after 4 July 2011” This means that the regulation has the effect of adding these cancers to the legislation as if they were included when the presumptive legislation was proclaimed on 4 July 2011.

This is a significant achievement for the UFUA, and would not have been possible without a sustained effort of the UFUA going back as far as 2006, when the first combined conference of the UFUA and New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union was held in Wellington New Zealand. Importantly, that conference included representation from the IAFF (North America /Canada) and FBU (UK), laid the foundation for the Global Alliance of Firefighter Unions. These international links endure, and give us great strength in making gains such as this particular achievement. We look forward to flowing these gains on to Australian State jurisdictions as soon as possible. The National Executive will meet in January to get this process underway.

Commencing this afternoon, the National Office will wind down to “skeleton” arrangements for the Christmas / New Year period, and we will resume full operations in the New Year. As National Secretary I will remain available for urgent matters.

On behalf of the National Committee of Management, I wish all members a safe and enjoyable festive season, and thank you for your support throughout 2022.

*Authorised by National Secretary Greg McConville*