



## BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 022

8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

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# Major Advance on Presumptive Laws: Western Australia Commits

Western Australia has committed to follow the lead of the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments by expanding the number of cancers covered by presumptive legislation from 12 to 20. We congratulate the Western Australian Branch on this outstanding result and commend the Cook Government on their commitment to support Western Australian firefighters.

This means that firefighter members of Aviation, ACT, Tasmanian and Western Australian Branches will lead the country in cancer coverage. It appears likely that Victorian members will soon join this group, with the Branch campaigning strongly while a Bill is before the Victorian Legislative Council. We wish our Victorian Branch leadership and members every success in this hugely important campaign.

The UFU's media release in relation to this huge advance can be [found here](#). The UFUA has offered support to firefighters across the country in pursuit of harmonised presumptive cancer laws, including by offering support to NSW and Queensland State Registered unions.

This achievement is a great example of what can be achieved in association with the Global Alliance, through which we have links with the International Association of Firefighters. With those links we have secured international representation to the World Health Organisation International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO IARC), leading to its declaration in July 2022 that firefighting is a cancer-causing occupation. That announcement is now backed by the release of the full [IARC Monograph on "Occupational Exposure as a Firefighter"](#). The Monograph is a dense review of literature considered by IARC in its reclassification of firefighting and is a rich body of research.

This is a great example of what can be achieved when Branches and the UFUA campaign together, including through member involvement in media advocacy and lobbying.

We look forward to further announcements as we step up the pursuit of firefighter presumptive cancer improvements nationally.

*Authorised by National Secretary Greg McConville*